

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

January 1994

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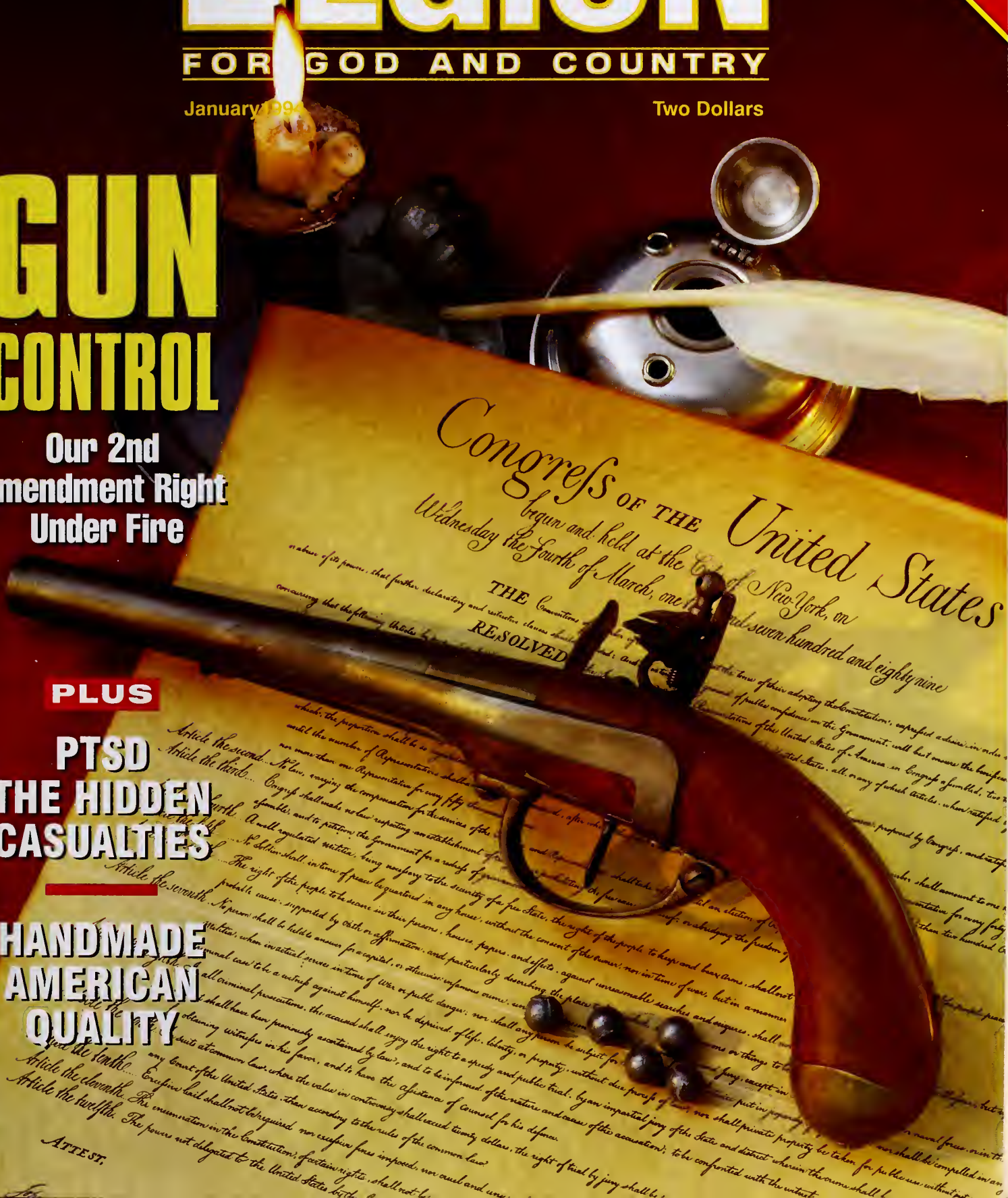
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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 136, No. 1

January 1994



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COVER *Many legislators are targeting the Second Amendment. Turn to page 24 to see how. Photograph by Stephen Lee.*



THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through more than 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

PERENNIAL STARTER GARDEN

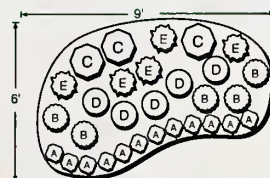
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POW/MIAs

I am writing to express our appreciation of The American Legion's advocacy of the live prisoner of war issue. As chairman of the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, a federation of 75 Vietnam veterans' organizations and veterans' issue groups, sometimes in the past I felt that we were waging a lonely battle. But no longer. For several years now, the Legion has taken front stage and provided the same quality leadership on resolving the issue that it has customarily provided on any number of other issues, such as Agent Orange.

No other traditional veterans' organization has gone the same mile the Legion has gone to demand action from the government to resolve the issue. The Vietnam veterans in our coalition appreciate your help and support. It's great to be at your side!

*J. Thomas Burch Jr.
Washington, D.C.*

Eco-Speak

Ronald Bailey is telling it like it is ("The Eco-Crisis Myth," September). Right after World War II, my first civilian job was crop dusting. I literally ate tons of DDT, copper sulfate, rotenone, 2-4-D. Later, I flew the mosquito fogging missions over Brevard County, Fla. Again, I inhaled malathion fog by the whole bunch, many a morning, for several years.

I am 72 years old and healthy. Maybe because of it.

*Mason Armstrong
Roseburg, Ore.*

Ron Bailey sounds like a disciple of Rush Limbaugh. He appears to have the philosophy that everything is OK as long as it doesn't cut profits or raise taxes. If it wasn't for legitimate scientists and dedicated environmentalists, we would see a free-for-all that would pollute and use up every resource in the world.

An ecology crisis is being caused by oil tanker spills, mountains of garbage, seepage of toxic chemicals, polluted city air and water, tons of radioactive waste, food laced with hormones, pesticides, herbicides, additives, over-harvesting of sea life, loss of old growth forests and rapid extinc-

tion of plant and animal species, to name a few.

*William Blyshak
Clearwater, Fla.*

Thank you for your fine editorial policy. Invariably it supplies us with both sides of controversial subjects. In the October issue, "Agent Orange Linked with More Diseases," by Assistant Editor Ken Scharnberg and "The Eco-Crisis Myth" showed readers the impact that pollution has to people on both sides of the fence. One side is concerned about the costs of lives, especially human life. The other is concerned about costs to the public and private sectors.

Both articles were well written. However, the "The Eco-Crisis Myth" lost much of its impact overworking such inflammatory phrases as "hysteria," "the public has no long-term memory," "environmental alarmists," and "created crisis."

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to give this problem some serious thought.

*Frank H. Cram
South Hamilton, Mass.*

More Lessons

I believe there is another lesson that should be added to the list of seven ("What Every Child Should Be Taught," October, by Gary Bauer). The lesson: Every person is responsible for his or her actions and will be held accountable for those actions. I think this is one of the most important, but neglected, lessons that many attorneys, judges, politicians and government officials need to learn.

*Richard D. Kreps
Elyria, Ohio*

The vast amount of people seem to be of the opinion that children somehow just grow up good if you leave them to themselves. I see this in parents' lack of values clarification, lack of time they are willing to give, and lack of attention and concern shown to their little ones.

*Eileen Ahart
Candor, N.Y.*

"What Every Child Should Be Taught" left me depressed. Bauer assumes that all of us in this nation are Christians.

*Ferris Kimmell
Sarasota, Fla.*

A Failed Comparison

I don't know if I was more disgusted by the letter of Thomas A. Gazia ("Prayer & America," Vetvoice, October) or by your incredible lack of judgment in publishing it. Regardless of one's views toward the ACLU, to equate that organization with Hitler, as Gazia did, is unbelievable. Has he forgotten the many thousands of American soldiers who died because of Hitler? Gazia should be ashamed.

*Lawrence Segel
Valhalla, N.Y.*

Cease And Desist

I am appalled at the derogatory jokes in Parting Shots about lawyers that constantly appear in THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. Since the magazine is the official publication of The American Legion, I must conclude that The American Legion is anti-lawyer.

Many lawyers have served our
Please turn to page 80

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Correction

In the November 1993 issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer was misquoted as reporting that Legionnaires are the largest group of donors to the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Comer, a member of the Korean War Memorial Advisory Board, actually said that Legionnaires *will be* the largest contributor to the memorial. The magazine regrets the error.

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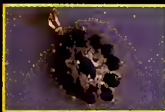
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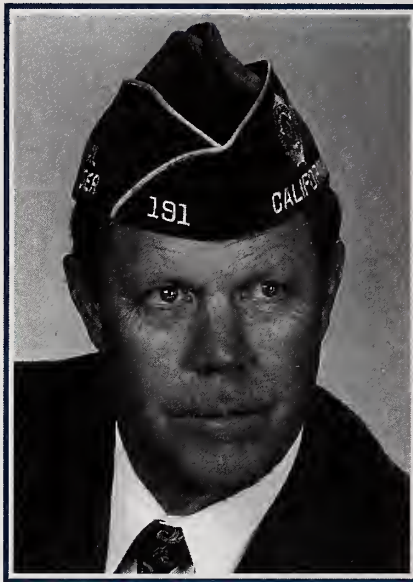
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EIGHT LEGION PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR 1994

AS OUR Legion embarks on its 75th diamond jubilee year, there has never been a more pressing need for carefully chosen priorities. The post-Cold War world is being restructured and we now have eight major issues that require our attention and action.

1. Keeping the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) competitive in the proposed national health-care system. The Legion has done more to keep VA strong within the proposed national health-care system than any other major veterans organization. While we haven't signed on to President Clinton's health-care plan yet—and we won't until all the details are spelled out—I am encouraged by the direction charted for VA. In fact, many suggestions made in the Legion's own health-care plan, *An American Legion Proposal to Improve Veterans Health Care*, are part of Clinton's initial plan overview, including:

- No veteran will have fewer benefits than under current law and each may have more.
- VA will guarantee all standard benefits to veterans who chose a VA plan.
- Service-connected and low-income veterans will not pay any cost for their care if they enroll in a VA plan.
- Service-connected and low-income veterans also will continue to receive free VA care for services such as long-term care and treatment for PTSD.
- VA's role in national medical education and research will continue.
- VA continues to serve as a back-up to Defense Department medical facilities in time of war.
- VA will receive premium pay-



Nat'l. Cmdr. Bruce Thiesen

ments for all enrollees from health alliances.

- Medicare will reimburse VA for high-income, nonservice-connected veterans.
- Federal government appropriations will cover the remaining cost of all care for service-connected and low-income veterans.
- VA will retain all reimbursements from health alliances, Medicare and other plans.

As our country moves toward national health care, we must remain committed to a competitive VA.

2. Maintaining a strong national defense. Cumulative defense cuts totaling \$44 billion by 1995 may place our national security at risk. I am concerned, in the shadow of troop reductions totaling 500,000, that we seem anxious to commit our remaining forces to settle the affairs of other countries through the United Nations.

Somalia. Bosnia. Haiti. Where will it end? How can we afford these operations in the face of massive defense

cuts? We can't. America must decide whether or not it wants to be continually engaged in military commitments across the world. If so, our military should be built up, not torn down.

3. No more Somalias. Somalia's civil war was and is a war we can't win. Under the guise of peacekeeping, America was again sucked into another country's civil war. The lessons of Somalia are that U.S. troops should never be placed under foreign command unless approved by Congress, and that the President should have clearly defined goals when sending U.S. troops abroad. We must get out of Somalia now.

4. Protecting POW/MIAs. Another lesson of Somalia is that U.S. troops taken prisoner during peacekeeping missions are not given POW status and the limited protection that it offers. They are instead considered political prisoners or hostages and have no defined legal rights. Only POW status gives the protection of the Geneva Conventions and obligates U.S. forces to mount rescue operations. Rules for American captives who are not called POWs are ambiguous.

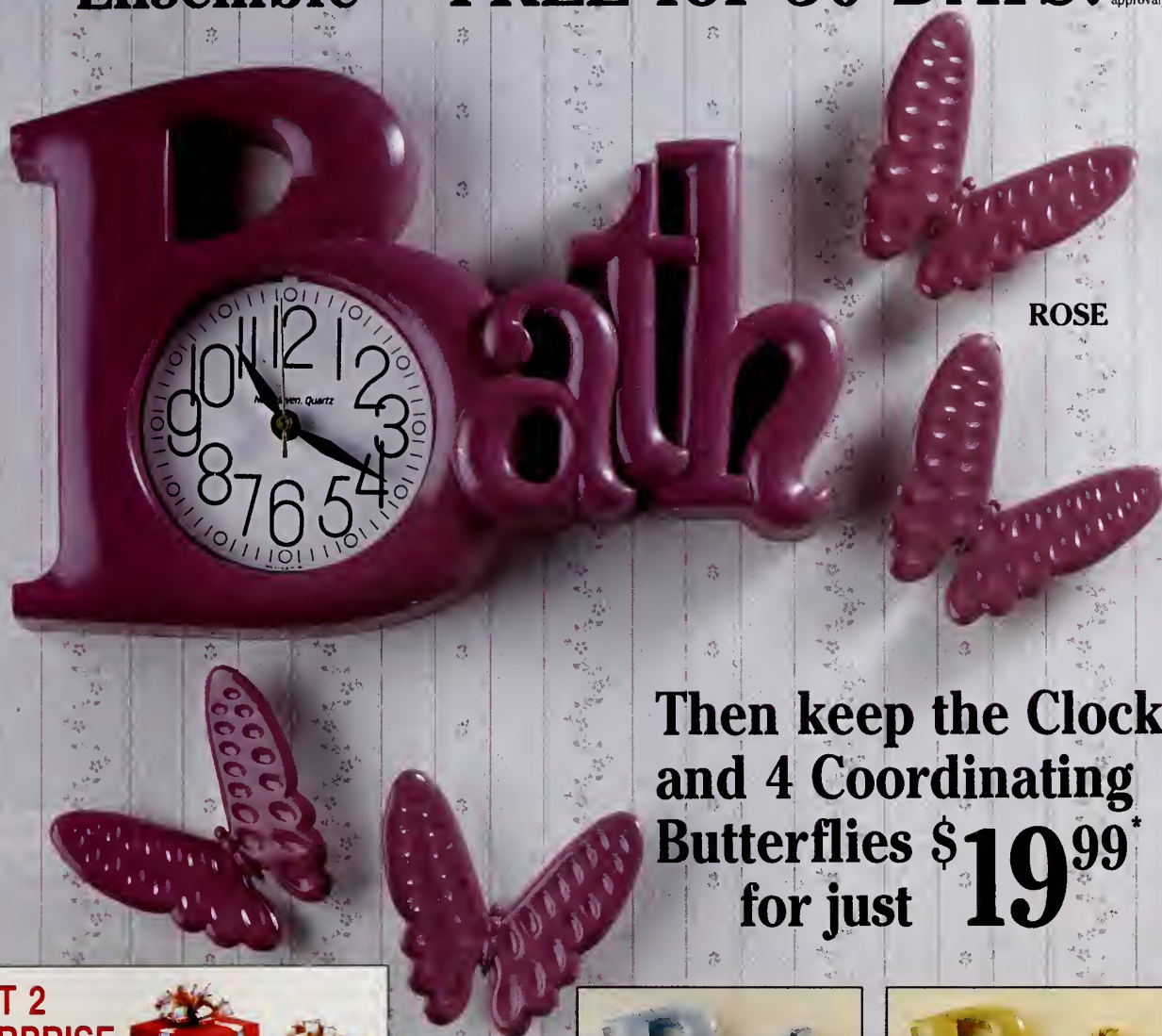
5. Getting a GI Bill for Gulf War veterans. GI Bill money for full-time students must increase from the current \$444 per month to \$777. The current GI Bill accounts for less than 42 percent of the average cost of a state college tuition in 1990-91. Veterans from previous wars received benefits that covered almost 100 percent of their college costs. Gulf War veterans deserve the same.

6. Passing a flag amendment. The Legion has successfully helped 33 states pass memorializing resolutions to protect the U.S. Flag from physical desecration. Since the Supreme Court in 1989 ruled it constitutional to desecrate the flag, the Legion has been campaigning to reverse the decision.

Please turn to page 72

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SHOULD CONGRESS END TRADE BENEFITS TO CHINA?

Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts)

On July 21, Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY) and I introduced H.J. Res. 208, which would have denied Most Favored Nation (MFN) trading status for the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Shortly before the deadline for MFN renewal, China conveniently released several high-profile prisoners who had been detained for their involvement in the democracy movement. Yet thousands remain imprisoned for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.

Last fall, China and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding to allow U.S. officials to inspect prisons suspected of exporting forced-labor products. Yet, when officials went to visit these prisons, their inspections were severely controlled.

Even if progress has been made in moving China towards a market economy, it must not be assumed that economic reform will automatically lead to political reform. Since 1980, the United States has tendered privileged trading status to the PRC. Nothing has changed in that time. This relationship has allowed China to accrue a favorable trade surplus with the United States of \$18 billion dollars — second only to our trade deficit with Japan.

Even more alarming is China's record on weapons proliferation. Since the early 1980s, China has:

- Sold M-11 missiles to Pakistan in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime;
- Sponsored the theft of nuclear-weapons secrets from U.S. labs;
- Secretly supplied nuclear technology to countries which have either not signed, or are suspected of violating, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Such countries include Iran, Iraq and North Korea; and
- Shown a willingness to sell missile technology capable of delivering nuclear, chemical or biological warheads to unstable or potentially aggressive nations in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

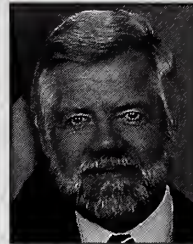
China is selling weapons and technology to the highest bidder without concern for the consequences, putting us in a position where we must spend billions to attempt to offset these actions.

We need to stop fooling ourselves that China is going to change easily. A straight, unconditional denial of MFN for China is the only response. ☐

YES



Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Washington)



NO

Both sides in the debate over Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status for China agree on the ultimate objectives of U.S. policy. While the Chinese government has initiated some positive reforms since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, all agree on the need for further significant improvements in such areas as human rights, fair trade and nuclear non-proliferation.

Some say the best way to encourage China to undertake this positive change is to deny it and its people continued MFN trade status. Such a policy, however, would only isolate China from U.S. influence and slow the inevitable social and economic change now occurring in this nation. It would likewise set back U.S. efforts to develop new cooperative policies between our two countries.

I believe a method of engaged and aggressive U.S. diplomatic dialogue with the leaders in Beijing is the most effective way to motivate change. Central to this strategy is continued MFN trade status for China. MFN offers the best chance for Chinese progress in human rights, trade and economic reforms.

China's economic prominence in the global economy is growing daily. It is the world's third largest economy and home to 20 percent of the world's population. Economists estimate that the \$8 billion in goods and services exported to China in 1992 resulted in 150,000 U.S. jobs.

Rejection of MFN and inevitable Chinese retaliation for this action would jeopardize this very sizable contribution to our economy. U.S. consumers, of course, would bear much of the burden of this retaliation with an additional \$13 billion to \$16 billion in higher duty fees for Chinese goods. At the same time, sizable potential Chinese markets for a wide range of U.S. products would be lost if we slip into this likely trade war.

Our country has much at stake in its relationship with China. It is my hope that we can overcome our ideological differences and maintain a healthy relationship with a Chinese government that promotes both humanitarian goals and economic growth.

A withdrawal of MFN status for China would be counterproductive to U.S. security and economic interests and would have negative consequences for both nations. ☐

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Somalia-Sudan-Iran

The decision to quit targeting Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid reflects recognition by U.S. intelligence experts that the real problem lies elsewhere—in Sudan and Iran. Now attracting attention are reports by the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism revealing that Sudanese and Iranian support for Aidid and other armed Islamic movements in Somalia began in 1992. The task force linked Aidid to Sudanese terrorist chief Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi.

Analysts say increasing awareness of outside interference in Somalia was behind the State Department's August decision to add Sudan to the list of nations supporting terrorism. That decision suggests a U.S. government plan to destabilize Sudan's Islamic rulers.

In retrospect, intelligence analysts say there should have been a serious attempt at covert action in Somalia, instead of the military intervention that now ensnares U.S. and U.N. forces. However, some specialists have balked at anti-terrorist operations aimed at violent Islamic groups. They fear America could be viewed as waging a war on Islam.

In any case, pressure is building on Capitol Hill for a quiet investigation to determine if bad intelligence preceded the military fiasco in Somalia.

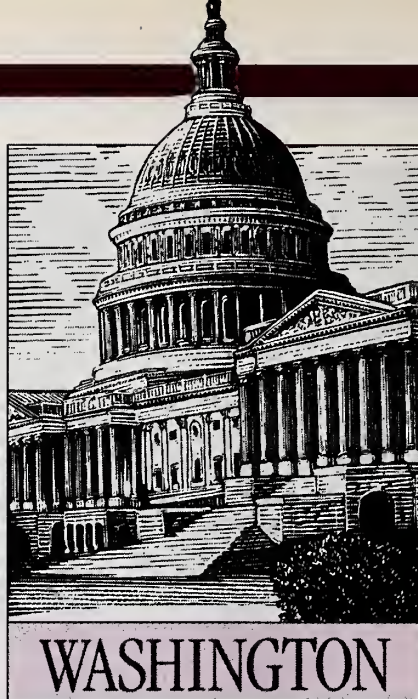
New Red Probe?

In what could be hotter than the Packwood diaries, CIA veterans are calling for a thorough congressional investigation into claims that hundreds of Americans were recruited by the Soviet KGB during the Cold War. But the odds are that such an investigation will be too hot to handle because the charges could touch Congress itself.

Larry Sulc, a 23-year CIA veteran who runs a private think tank, the Nathan Hale Institute, is among those calling attention to the largely unpublicized allegations in a new book, *The FBI: Inside The World's Most Powerful Law Enforcement Agency*, by former *Washington Post* reporter Ronald Kessler.

The book claims that in the last decade the KGB recruited "many hundreds of Americans and possibly more than a thousand [American] spies,"

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

including military personnel and officials in government agencies.

In response to the allegations, which were made by a former KGB employee, *The Washington Post* reported that the FBI launched a "major investigation." Internal security experts contend that the nation needs to hunt down communist spies of the Cold War just as vigorously as it hunts down Nazi collaborators from World War II.

Less Help For Killers

With the crime issue refusing to go away, expect a big congressional push to eliminate federal funds for 20 state and regional "death penalty resource centers" that help death-row killers appeal their sentences.

Most of the criticism of the centers has come from Texas, where the Texas Resource Center has intervened to postpone pending executions of several notorious killers. In the latest case, the life of Frank McFarland was spared just moments before he was to be put to death for fatally stabbing a woman more than 50 times and leaving her body in a church driveway.

In Congress, Rep. Jack Fields of Texas has introduced legislation to cut Washington support for the centers, while Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina has been the strongest critic of

them in the Senate. The little-known federal program to partially fund the centers was initially designed to ensure death-row inmates receive legal representation. Some of the centers may survive without federal monies.

Reno To Go?

The popular and independent Attorney General Janet Reno is expected to resign from the Clinton cabinet under pressure. Democrats in both the White House and Congress are expressing dismay over her apparent go-slow approach on serious issues.

Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, architect of the new congressional law against homosexuals in the military, was said to be livid over the four-week delay by Reno's department in appealing federal judge Terry Hatter's ruling overturning the traditional Pentagon policy. Even Defense Secretary Les Aspin was described as upset over the delay.

The immediate failure to appeal meant that open military homosexuals were being returned to active duty.

Nunn's problems with Reno came at a time when she was already under fire for a Supreme Court brief relaxing prosecution of some child pornography cases. More than 130 members of Congress went on record protesting the policy change.

Congress' Medicine

Both the left and the right agree—Congress should live under the laws it creates, and that includes health-care reform.

The conservative Heritage Foundation has joined feisty liberal Rep. Pete Stark of California in calling for members of Congress also to be covered under the new health-care system. But Stark wants to go further and has introduced a resolution urging members to enroll in the cheapest plan available under the system. This way, Stark insists, Congress has an incentive to correct problems of poor quality and service.

Meanwhile, provisions for "guaranty funds" in the Clinton plan are drawing attention from all concerned. The National Center for Public Policy Research has concluded that these special funds would set the stage for another savings-and-loan disaster because they provide a government bailout for health plans that become insolvent. □

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The Legion To THE RESCUE



ABOVE WATER—
The National
Emergency Fund
gave immediate
help to victims of
the Midwest
flooding.

During the holidays and all year long, the Legion helps needy veterans and their families through emergency grants from NEF and TFA.

DURING The Flood of '93, Legionnaire Dick Vaske of Post 137, Dyersville, Iowa, was one of thousands of Midwesterners to find his basement filled with several feet of water. But unlike many other flood victims, Vaske got help right away from The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF). Within 48 hours of receiving the paperwork from the Iowa Department, National Headquarters had a check on its way to Vaske.

The NEF was re-established in 1989 to aid those in the path of hurricanes Hugo, and more recently has helped the victims of hurricanes Iniki and Andrew. The Midwestern floods of last summer were the latest test for NEF, as more than 300 grants worth

more than \$200,000 went to help Legionnaires.

"It was nice to find out there really are benefits to being a veteran," Legionnaire Vaske said after receiving money to repair his basement.

While the holiday season is the traditional time for giving, the Legion is committed to helping Legionnaires and their families all year long.

"It's important that we receive donations to the NEF all year," says Herman G. Harrington, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission. "We don't get enough warn-

ing before a natural disaster to raise money for the victims. We always have to have it available so we can give it on the spot."

The fund distributed \$47,277 in grants to 119 families and four Posts in Florida when they were struck by Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

In Louisiana, Post 96 of Morgan City suffered \$37,000 damage from Andrew—more than insurance would cover—and the Post sought help from NEF.

After the insurance company assessed the damage to the Post, members sent the estimate to National Headquarters with the NEF claim forms. "We had no problem getting the money within a week," says Post Commander Tom Benoit.

This quick payment doesn't mean the Legion passes out good money indiscriminately, however. Each case is individually assessed at the Department

level.

"I put over 3,000 miles on my car just inspecting these claims," says Asa Stewart, chairman of the Department of Louisiana Disaster Relief Committee. "All of the claims we gave funds for were legitimate and there were some I turned down because the damage was covered by insurance."

The Legion's assistance is not limited to its 3.1 million members. Through another of its programs, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), all veterans' families can receive help. Like NEF grants, all requests for TFA must go through Legion Departments where

they are reviewed and forwarded on to National Headquarters.

From 1970 to 1992, TFA distributed over \$1.6 million to families, according to Eugene V. Lindquist, Chairman of the Children & Youth

HOW TO HELP

To help Legionnaires' and veterans' families during holidays and throughout the year, send your NEF and TFA donations to:

National Emergency Fund
The American Legion
P.O. Box 6141
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Commission.

Vietnam veteran Robert Lucas of Pelham, N.C., was in trouble because
Please turn to page 68

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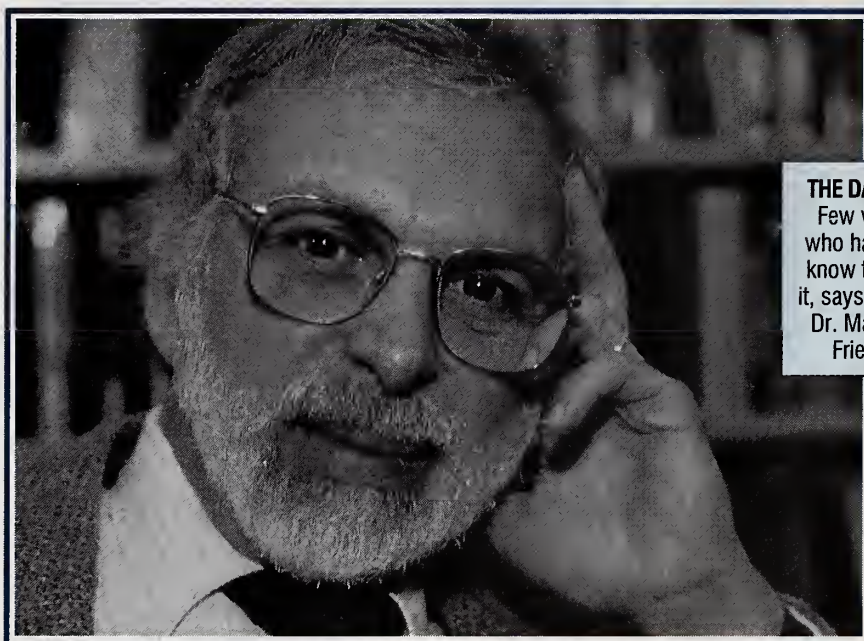
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PTSD

THE HIDDEN CASUALTIES



THE DANGER—
Few veterans who have PTSD know they have it, says VA expert Dr. Matthew J. Friedman.

9 years old and she was dying.

The 20-year-old sergeant knelt beside her, cradling her head. She was terribly skinny and chained by her ankle to a tree. Blood pumped in and out of the hole in her chest where a bullet—his bullet—had plowed into her. She looked up at him with terrified dark eyes and pleaded, “No eat me, GI. No eat me.”

She lived long enough for him to learn the Viet Cong had chained her there, told her that Americans were cannibals, then gave her the submachine gun. In her terror, she had wiped out the first patrol that had come down the trail. But this time, weakened by hunger and thirst, she had been unable to lift the heavy weapon into firing position.

She died in her killer’s arms, still begging him not to eat her.

Twenty-five years later, the sergeant, now a middle-aged office worker, has held a multitude of jobs, moved a dozen times, lived through a broken marriage and sleeps only three or four hours a night. He walks the perimeter of his house every night, avoids crowds, especially shopping malls. He loves his kids intensely, but in their eyes, he is a remote and cold man.

Two and a half decades after the incident, he still dreams about those crumpled bodies, the flies and the terrified eyes of a dying little girl in that jungle clearing.

Like nearly half a million other Vietnam veterans, he is a victim of PTSD—Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Research scientists base the number of Vietnam veterans suffering from PTSD on detailed studies of Vietnam combat veterans. They estimate that 481,000 have symptoms of the illness and that far too many veterans do not realize they have it. (For a list of symptoms, see box Page 16.)

From the time men fought with spears and swords, persons suffering from psychological problems after combat were considered weak, inadequately trained or suffering from poor morale.

It wasn’t until World War I that researchers began to realize combat itself was the catalyst. Yet, no one knew exactly how it affected people.

Please turn page

The more research that is done, the more evidence there is that hundreds of thousands of GIs from all wars suffer from PTSD.

.....

By Ken Scharnberg

IT WAS June 1968. The first thing the recon team found as it entered the clearing was the five crumpled figures on the ground. It was the patrol missing since last week. Everything was deadly still except the thick-bodied black flies on the corpses. “Charlie” had no reason to stick around, but

Ken Scharnberg, an assistant editor of this magazine, wrote “VA Research: We All Benefit,” in the September issue.

the dense foliage could hide almost anything. The point man scanned the area. There was no sense taking any chances.

As the team stepped into the open, there was a suggestion of movement at the far end of the clearing. A glint of sunlight off gun metal caught the point man’s eye. Without hesitation, the young sergeant raised his weapon and fired.

For a moment there was silence. Then came a faint cry. He cautiously moved toward the sound of the cry and peered over the blind of jungle plants, staring down into the face of a little Vietnamese girl. A pre-World War II Thompson submachine gun lay beside her. She was no more than 8 or

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FIRST TIME DIRECT FROM AMERICA'S SOUTHWEST

World War II brought forth startling revelations. During the early years of the war, triple the number of GIs were diagnosed with psychiatric problems than in World War I.

By the time the Korean War began, doctors had learned the importance of treating stress symptoms immediately to reduce or prevent long-term traumas. They treated GIs on the spot in field hospitals and sent them back to their units.

Troops fighting in Vietnam, however, posed new problems for doctors. The number of combat stress victims they treated was at an all-time low compared to previous wars. But fighting efficiency also declined, and for no apparent reason. Doctors didn't know at the time the symptoms simply were being suppressed. The combat stress symptoms that seemed to show up so readily in World War II and Korean veterans did not surface until years later in Vietnam veterans. Indeed, it wasn't until 1980, five years after the Vietnam war ended, that VA researchers finally identified PTSD.

While PTSD has become the catch-all term for the traumas of war, the illness has been given many names over the years—combat fatigue, war neurosis, shell shock, battle shock and more. During the Civil War, for instance, it was called nostalgia because of the overwhelming desire of the veteran to return home.

The various names for the illness have often caused confusion. For example, after THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE printed a story on Vet Centers, "They Aren't Just Rap Centers Anymore" in April 1993, one WWII veteran commented, "I feel sorry for those guys with PTSD, but you haven't seen anything until you see a bad case of combat fatigue."

That comment reveals more than one man's confusion over what to call combat stress. PTSD is not limited to Vietnam veterans alone.

VA researchers say that in addition to the estimated 481,000 Vietnam veterans who have PTSD to some degree, there is mounting evidence that many Korean and WWII veterans also are afflicted. None know they have it, according to Dr. Matthew J. Friedman, executive director of VA's National Center for PTSD in White River Junction, Vt. PTSD isn't something that is



readily obvious to the person with it. "No one can diagnose themselves as having PTSD," he says.

Just what is PTSD and who suffers from it?

Friedman says PTSD is considered an anxiety disorder caused by some form of traumatic experience. This experience is called a

stressor, and victims tend to relive the experience over and over again. Stressors can be combat related, but other traumatic experiences such as earthquakes, floods, violent crimes and automobile accidents also can be stressors.

Combat related stressors linked to PTSD include witnessing first-hand things that fall far beyond what could be considered normal human experience. Often, these are life-threatening experiences. For instance, a GI could suffer trauma if he was the sole survivor of a mine explosion or ambush. Nor is it a normal experience to crawl out from the rubble of your home after a tornado has struck. These experiences may trigger PTSD in some, but not in others. Everyone is susceptible to PTSD, yet everyone has a different stress level.

Are victims of PTSD insane? "Absolutely not!" says Friedman. "People tend to think of the mind as separate from the body. It is not." Like the heart or lung or any other organ, the brain is an integral part of the body, Friedman says. It can suffer illnesses ranging from mild to extreme. And like most illnesses, it can be treated.

According to Friedman, the doctors in Korea had the right idea about prompt treatment of PTSD. The faster treatment begins for a trauma victim, the better the chances of preventing PTSD. This was proven in the Gulf War. After troops there were exposed to traumatic events or sights—such as bodies strewn along the highway to Kuwait City—they went through debriefing sessions almost immediately. The result was not only a lowered rate of PTSD, but faster and more effective treatment for those who did suffer trauma symptoms.

"We know that the more experience in war, the bigger the likelihood of combat stress," says Friedman.

And some of the most serious victims of PTSD had for many years been ignored by VA. "Many former POWs suffer from PTSD," says Dr. Pat Sutker, a clinical psychologist and VA researcher in New Orleans who specializes in studies on American POWs from Korea and World War II. Sutker says studies indicate that physical deprivation, such as starvation, seems to make the likelihood of PTSD even stronger. However, anyone can devel-

Please turn page

SYMPTOMS OF PTSD

BELOW are the common symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Psychic numbing: An inability to "feel feelings."

Helplessness: Feeling powerless over one's job or life.

Depression: Sadness, dejection, hopelessness, intense guilt.

Aggression or suspicion: Fighting, fear of crowds, intense suspicion of others.

Anxiety/panic attacks: Often intense and unexplainable; sometimes triggered by ordinary things such as aromas or flavors.

Nightmares: Usually involving past experiences; often with sweating, shaking, screaming.

Flashbacks: Intense reliving of a traumatic event; easily triggered.

Physical complaints: Anxiety-related headaches, backaches, sleep disorders.

Startle reaction: Permanent combat alert; one is constantly on guard, startles easily, sometimes with violent reactions.

Avoidance: Rejection of people, activities associated with war experiences, including normally pleasurable ones.

Recurring/intrusive thoughts: Often interferes with employment.

Selective memory: Forgetting traumatic experiences while remembering minute details.

Veterans who exhibit any of the symptoms listed above should seek counseling immediately. Visit a Vet Center, a VA regional office, a VA hospital or clinic, or contact your American Legion Department Service Officer. In some cases, PTSD is considered a compensable service-connected disability. For more information on where to find help for PTSD, write The American Legion, VA&R Division, 1608 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. —B.F.

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op PTSD, given enough stress.

According to many VA experts, many WWII veterans suffering from PTSD immersed themselves in their jobs to suppress their problems. But once they retire, those long-buried marks of PTSD emerge.

"Retirement tends to exacerbate the symptoms," Sutker says. "As we get older, we become less able to fight off the symptoms." Without work to focus on, all the old memories of trauma come flooding back, she says.

Sutker also notes a marked difference in how each generation deals with combat stress. World War II veterans with PTSD tend to focus on work, whereas some Vietnam veterans suffering PTSD often opted for self-medication, exhibiting problems with alcohol or other drugs. Korean veterans with the disorder fall somewhere in between, choosing both methods. For some, the method of dealing with the problem was extreme. Studies show that there was a higher than expected rate of suicide among Korean POW survivors in the years following the war.

Sutker says the mores and ethics of the times seem to play a major role in how veterans deal with the problem and who seeks help. At one time, psychological problems carried a heavy stigma. Among World War II and Korean War veterans, there was a reluctance to seek mental health assistance. "The stigma still exists," Sutker says. "But many are so tortured by their problems that eventually they seek help."

One exception, she says, is Vietnam POW survivors. "Most were pilots and a pilot is taught control at all costs. To admit psychological problems, such as PTSD, conflicts with the image of the military man. That is, mental problems are for women and children." The truth is, she says, no matter who you are, PTSD will sap your ability to be creative or to

PTSD

P O S T -
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S T R E S S
D I S O R D E R

enjoy interpersonal relationships.

Much like POWs, women veterans were largely ignored by VA when the subject of PTSD came up. Joan Furey, a researcher based in Palo Alto, Calif., is an expert

on female PTSD. Furey, an Army nurse during Vietnam, says VA was slow to realize that a Combat Infantryman's Badge was not a prerequisite for PTSD. There were between 8,000 and 11,000 women, mostly nurses or Red Cross volunteers, who served in Vietnam. According to Furey, researchers estimate about 21 percent have PTSD.

WHILE women did occasionally seek help at VA Vet Centers, it was not until July 1993 that VA opened its first inpatient treatment for women veterans. Until then, women veterans going to VA for help often met with sexual discrimination and open resistance.

This occurred despite VA's own Research Triangle study conducted from 1984-1988, which surveyed hundreds of Vietnam veterans. The results of the survey showed that female veterans suffered from depression at a rate two to three times higher than their male counterparts.

Furey says women are less likely to come forward with their problems. One major reason is "VA has a male-dominated image," she says. In the past two years, many veterans and even some lawmakers have accused women of looking for special treatment from VA. "This isn't special treatment," argues Furey. "It's a matter of equity."

Still, if exposure to combat causes PTSD, how can women who are barred from combat justify their claims?

"Most women who served in Vietnam as nurses were 22 to 25 years old," says Carolyn Beisler, a social worker at the Vet Center in Louisville, Ky. "Many had never worked in a hospital, but they were expected to function immediately." Beisler, a Vietnam Navy veteran, is the chairperson of the VA Readjustment Counseling Service, Women Veterans Working Group. She says many of the nurses in 'Nam were unprepared for the endless parade of maimed and mutilated bodies.

According to Beisler, nurses and medics were exposed to situations far beyond normal human experiences. This alone was enough to qualify as a stressor, she says.

Beisler backs her claims by citing studies of nurses and other noncombatant veterans in Vietnam and Desert Storm. Military women working in intelligence and communications handled endless lists of casualties. Also exhibiting unusually high incidents of PTSD were noncombatants exposed to extreme stress such as GIs who retrieved bodies in the field and those who worked in Graves Registration preparing the corpses for shipment back home.

But women veterans were subjected to another kind of

Please turn to page 70



HIDDEN VICTIMS—Doctors have ignored the most serious PTSD cases—ex-POWs, says Dr. Pat Sutker, a VA researcher specializing in Korean and WWII POWs.

Friend to Friend- A Brotherhood Undivided

By Ron Tunison

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Legion
1/94

GET OUT OF SOMALIA

PAYING respect to fallen comrades, more than 100 Legion leaders stood in silent tribute to Army Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Army Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Field during the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) in Indianapolis.

Gordon, a Green Beret from Lincoln, Maine, and Field, from Lisbon, Maine, were killed in early October in Somalia and dragged through the streets of Mogadishu.

In a move to help prevent the deaths of American GIs such as Gordon and Field who serve in U.N.-commanded missions, the NEC unanimously passed Res. 33, calling for the immediate withdrawal of all American forces from Somalia. In addition, Res. 15 urged the President and Congress not to put American forces under foreign command without specific congressional approval.

"The nature of the mission and role of our U.S. troops is questionable," National Commander Bruce Thiesen told the NEC in his remarks to open the Oct. 20-21 meeting. "American troops have been placed under foreign command. In our view, that violates the U.S. Constitution, unless Congress approves."

Thiesen said U.S. troops should be pulled out because they are not protected by the Geneva Conventions if they are taken hostage or become political prisoners during peacekeeping or humanitarian missions.

The American Legion has asked the President and Congress to create a special commission to determine the status of American troops taken prisoner by hostile forces in foreign countries when the United States is not at war. But, so far, no action has been

The NEC calls for the government to bring our GIs home from East Africa and urges clearer policies for U.S. troops' role in U.N. missions.



JOHN E. SIMON

BANNER SPEECH—Thiesen praises states that passed memorializing resolutions to protect the U.S. Flag.

announced.

Thiesen recounted the Legion's efforts in the past year to bring the unresolved POW/MIA issues to the American people. He cited numerous articles conveying the Legion's concern that appeared in newspapers nationwide. "The Legion is being noticed and given a lot of considera-

tion on this issue," Thiesen said.

At the same time the NEC was meeting, President Clinton tried to send U.S. troops to Haiti to restore the elected government there. "As for the situation in Haiti, we have many of the same concerns," Thiesen said. "I think it was wise for the President to order the ship carrying U.S. assistance troops back to Guantanamo Bay and re-examine the situation before committing our people to a country torn by civil strife. It could turn out to be another Somalia."

However, Thiesen told the NEC that he agrees with the continuation of the oil and arms embargo on Haiti.

Moving from foreign affairs to domestic issues, Thiesen reaffirmed the Legion's commitment in its long-standing fight to protect the U.S. Flag.

"During these past few weeks, it has been difficult not to be conscious of our flag," he said, "as it is carried into far-away countries and regions by our troops on missions of humanitarianism, peacekeeping or nation-building."

Thiesen lauded the 33 states that had passed memorializing resolutions to protect the flag and urged the other American Legion Departments to push the memorializing resolutions through their state legislatures.

He said the Legion's goal was to get at least 38 states to adopt memorializing resolutions to show Congress enough support exists for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag. "Memorial resolutions send a clear message to Capitol Hill what 'we the people' want and expect from our government," said Thiesen.

Another major home front issue covered by Thiesen was veterans' health care. The National Commander credited the Legion with having a

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large impact on the administration's proposals to reform the nation's health-care system.

"When Clinton unveiled his health-care plan, 80 percent of what the Legion asked for was included," Thiesen said, referring to the "Gold Book," *An American Legion Proposal To Improve Veterans Health Care*. "The veterans look pretty good as far as our part of the plan goes."

Thiesen also gave the NEC a status report on the Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF), which provides help for Legionnaires who are victims of national disasters. He said the NEF has given more than \$200,000 to Legion members and Posts affected by the Midwest flooding.

"The NEF is an example of our devotion to mutual helpfulness in its highest form," said Thiesen, who also credited the Auxiliary for being "on the front lines" of assistance during flood relief efforts.

Representatives of four Departments came forward during the meeting to present Thiesen with donations to the NEF. New York gave \$5,000; New Jersey, \$17,471.97; Louisiana, \$1,000; and Puerto Rico, \$55.

The NECmen took time out from Legion business to remember one of their own. Six days before the meeting, North Carolina NECman Bob Tart died (See Page 38). In a eulogy, Herman Harrington, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, said Tart

"will be remembered not because of the many offices he held, but how he set about the challenges before him. He will be remembered not for what he did, but how he did it."

In an award ceremony, Ken Scharnberg, assistant editor of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, received a plaque in recognition for compiling and writing the book, *Voices: Letters from WWII*. The NEC approved a resolution that authorized similar books about the Korean and Vietnam wars to be published.

Helen Holcomb, President of the National Auxiliary, spoke before the NEC and thanked the members for their support in the National Auxiliary's membership drive. She said a program has been established to award a pin to every Legionnaire who signs up three Auxiliary members this year.

Thiesen also urged Legionnaires to continue their membership efforts by seeking out and recruiting Desert Storm and active duty military men and women. Challenging Legionnaires to renew their commitment to the organization, he said: "It's time to get down to work in earnest in this diamond jubilee year."

The following program and policy resolutions were passed at the Fall Meeting:

Res. 1 Calls for amending Title 38, USC, to require contractors to hire and promote veterans.

Res. 6 Urges the President to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Martha Raye in honor

of her meritorious service to the United States.

Res. 7 Encourages Legion Post homes to provide access to disabled persons.

Res. 8 Authorizes temporary charters to Post 281 of Toboso, Negros Occidental, Department of the Philippines; and Post 64 of Seoul, Korea, Department of Alaska.

Res. 9 Calls on Congress to retain full funding for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Res. 10 Urges VA not to delay or deny treatment to any U.S. veteran if VA provides health care to non-U.S. citizens.

Res. 11 Calls for the State of Kansas to reimburse VA for property used to widen Highway 54.

Res. 13 Urges DoD and Congress to re-evaluate the recommended military strategy, force structures and budget levels created in the "Bottom-up Review."

Res. 14 Urges Congress to retain the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as a source of career military physicians.

Res. 15 Outlines the Legion's recommendations for clearly defined policies before committing U.S. troops to peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

Res. 16 Calls on the government to expedite the sale of unserviceable WWII victory ships and to use the funds to buy more modern training ships for the maritime academies.

Res. 20 Authorizes the creation of The American Legion International Golf Tournament in conjunction with Hartford Holidays Travel.

Res. 24 Petitions the Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, to amend administration support procedures to allow the POW/MIA flag to be flown at postal facilities.

Res. 25 Authorizes The American Legion to apply for membership in the United States Olympic Committee.

Res. 26 Urges all Legionnaires to participate in the youth programs of The American Legion.

Res. 27 Amends the Legion's policy on education to include the Legion's leadership role in promoting the family's responsibility in educating children.

Res. 30 Authorizes the Legion's participation in another nationwide campaign to raise money for the Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation and the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation.

Res. 31 Authorizes, at no cost to the Legion, publishing two books—Korean War letters and Vietnam War letters—written by Legionnaires and their families.

Res. 33 Calls for the immediate withdrawal of all American forces from Somalia.

The complete text of these and other resolutions passed by the NEC may be obtained by writing: Archives, The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

By T. Douglas Donaldson



RESOLVED—Legion leaders, such as Florida's Alternate NECman Robert J. Proctor (left) and NECman George L. Derrick, want the government to reform its POW policies.

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THE GOLDEN EAGLE RING

GUN CONTROL

Our Second Amendment

UNDER FIRE

A new onslaught of legislation and demagoguery threatens Americans' constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

By Dan Peterson

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled: "The second article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is repealed"

THE SECOND Amendment to the Constitution is repealed? What is this, a fantasy? A bad dream?

No, it is House Joint Resolution No. 81, now pending in the U. S. Congress. It is one of dozens of bills aimed at severely restricting and ultimately wiping out the constitutional right of law-abiding

Americans to buy, own and use firearms.

Generations of American soldiers have endured the hardships of war, suffered wounds, watched companions die and sacrificed their own lives, all for a single cause: to preserve this nation and the freedoms to which it was dedicated.

One of the most basic of all of those freedoms is the right of the people to keep and bear arms—a right enshrined by the Framers of the Constitution in the Second Amendment.

It would have been unthinkable a few decades ago, but power-hungry politicians are working hard right now to disarm you, your children and future generations. Unless these political attacks on our constitutional liberties meet fierce resistance, the walls protecting our historic freedoms will be breached.

LAW ASSAULT—
There are dozens of bills now in Congress aimed at eliminating the buying and owning of firearms.

Straitjackets on your rights are being proposed at both the national and state levels. They are dressed up as "anti-crime" measures, but they will affect only those who obey the law, not

criminals. Some of the state laws have already been passed, and major battles are underway in Congress.

WAITING PERIODS

Numerous states have already

passed laws requiring waiting periods before a handgun, or in some states any firearm, can be purchased or transferred. The National Rifle Association (NRA) reports that about two-thirds of the population of the United States is currently covered by waiting-period laws.

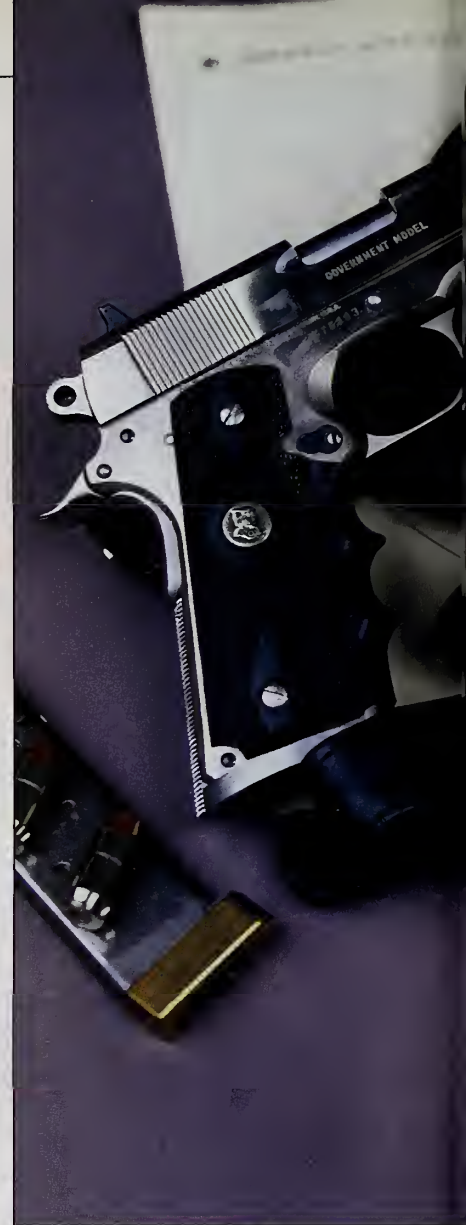
The effectiveness of waiting periods in reducing crime has been zero. According to data published by the NRA, states with waiting periods have seen increases in homicide or violent crime rates *greater* than the increase for the nation as a whole.

So what is the solution proposed by anti-gun politicians to the increasing anarchy on the streets? Why, pass a

Dan Peterson is a Washington, D.C., attorney who often writes on guns and the law. The views expressed are his own, not those of his law firm.



STEPHEN LEE





GUN RATIONING—Some states, such as Virginia, already have laws that limit the number of guns a citizen may purchase.

such a requirement would divert police from fighting real crime and give them the unwanted chore of snooping into the backgrounds

of American citizens.

If the applicant is turned down by the local police, his only recourse would be to bring suit in federal court to try to get a judge to allow the purchase. Under the Brady Bill, local governments and their employees who did the background check could not be held liable in court. So, even if the police refused an application for a wrong reason, the applicant might have to spend thousands of dollars in attorney fees to vindicate his rights, with no possibility of reimbursement from the government.

The second part of the Brady Bill would be implemented some years in the future, though it is impossible to say when. The waiting period would be phased out, and instead a national computerized background check would be established. This computerized background check would apply to *all firearms trans-*

JOHN E. SIMON

national waiting period, of course.

The principal waiting-period bill is the so-called "Brady Bill," H.R. 1025 and S. 414, being pushed by Sarah Brady's organization, Handgun Control, Inc. The Brady Bill has two basic parts.

The first part would establish a national five-business-day waiting period before a handgun could legally be transferred from a dealer to a purchaser. During this five-day period, the Brady Bill would allow time for local law enforcement authorities to do a criminal background check.

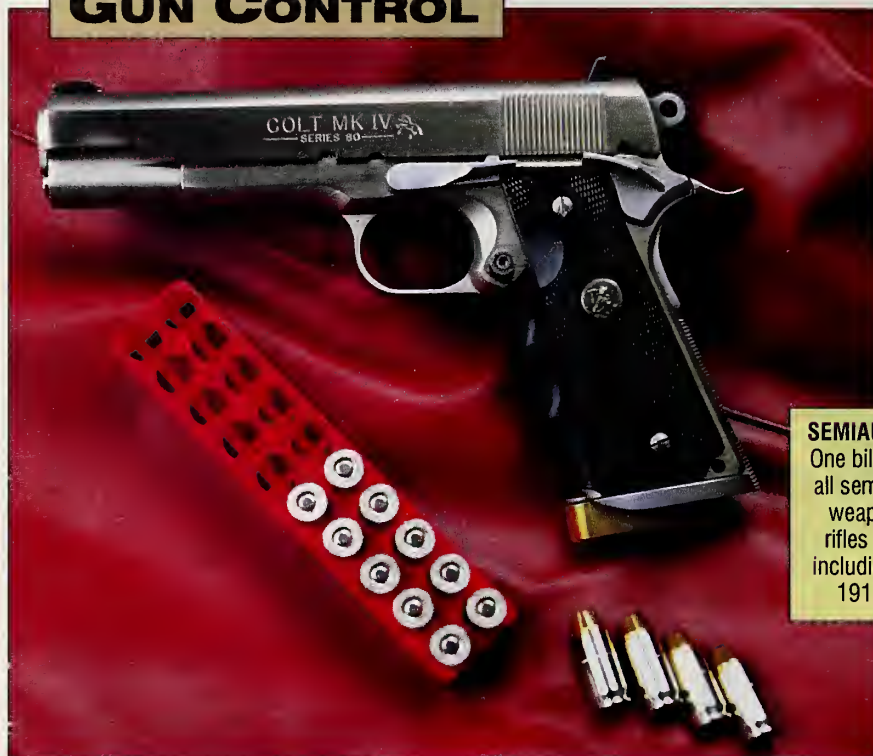
There are serious doubts as to whether the federal government has the constitutional power to tell local law enforcement authorities to do background checks. Be that as it may,

NO AMMO—If Sen. Moynihan can't ban 9mm, .25- and .32-caliber ammunition, he'd impose a 1,000 percent ammo tax.



JOHN E. SIMON

GUN CONTROL



JOHN E. SIMON

SEMI-AUTO BAN—
One bill would ban all semiautomatic weapons from rifles to pistols, including this Colt 1911A1 .45.

ferred through a licensed dealer, not just handguns. The computerized system would not apply in states with their own firearms permit systems.

Despite much wrangling, Congress passed the Brady Bill and it was signed, as promised, by President Clinton. After the bill passed, Sarah Brady laughed when asked whether she would now stop her gun-control campaign. All along Brady has said that her bill is only the first step in the gun-controllers' agenda. Next on their agenda: a ban on semiautomatic firearms, which they characterize as "assault weapons."

BANS ON SEMIAUTOMATICS

New Jersey, California and a number of municipalities in other states have recently enacted bans on the possession or transfer of certain semiautomatic firearms. As men with military experience know, semiautomatic weapons fire one round for each trigger pull. Fully automatic weapons fire a continuous burst with each trigger pull.

Semiautomatics have been with us for a century and have been commonly used for sporting purposes as well as military purposes. There are those who are capitalizing on the public confusion between semiautomatics with a military appearance and fully automatic weapons, which are already strictly controlled. Some politicians in Con-

gress are now seeking to ban semiautomatics by redefining them as "assault weapons."

Bills pending in Congress ban possession and transfer of semiautomatics by manufacturer's name and model, and even allow for more guns to be added to the list.

OTHERS are even broader. The bill introduced by Rep. William Hughes of New Jersey would simply delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury the task of compiling the list of banned semiautomatics. He could include on the list any semiautomatic firearm that, in his opinion, is not "generally recognized as particularly suitable for, or readily adaptable to, sporting purposes." That's a pretty slippery test. One man's legitimate sporting arm is another's dangerous assault weapon.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois is broader yet. It bans all semiautomatics, both pistols and rifles, and even such old stand-bys as the Colt 1911A1 .45 pistol, which served U.S. Armed Forces for over 70 years.

Sen. Diane Feinstein of California has tacked an "assault weapon" ban on to the Senate's version of the pending crime bill. Her amendment bans 19 specific semi-autos by name and model. Included is the Colt AR-15,

one of the rifles used in the National Matches at Camp Perry each year. Sen. Feinstein's amendment has passed the Senate, but will not be considered by the House until Congress returns from its recess at the beginning of 1994.

HANDGUN REGISTRATION

Some jurisdictions, such as New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Illinois, already have laws requiring handguns to be registered or forcing owners to obtain a permit. The District of Columbia has, for all practical purposes, banned handguns since 1977. That is why it is so safe to stroll around at night in Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Now some of your congressmen want to make the rest of the country equally "safe" by requiring nationwide registration of handguns.

Rep. Cardiss Collins of Illinois has introduced a bill that would require each state to set up a system to register existing handguns.

Penalties are stiff. For example, possession of an unregistered handgun in your home where it would be "readily accessible" would be punishable by 12 years in jail, if the handgun were larger than a .22 caliber.

Bills by Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island and Rep. Sidney Yates of Illinois don't fool around with mere registration. They would ban possession of handguns outright, except for members of licensed handgun clubs. Under Chafee's bill, members of these federally licensed clubs could possess handguns only while target shooting at the club's range. The guns would have to remain locked up at the club or be stored with the police at all other times.

GUN RATIONING

One of the slickest stratagems—and it looks like it is becoming a trend—is limiting the number of guns that citizens can buy.

South Carolina has had a limit of one handgun per month since 1975. In 1975, its violent crime rate was about at the national average, according to FBI statistics. Since that time, South Carolina's rate has soared far above the national average.

Despite South Carolina's experi-

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If you were born between the late 1800s and 1968, it is the symbol of your time, your day, your age. And future Americans will look back on our time, with reverence, as the ".45 Era."

But now "Old Slabsides" is retiring from the battlefields, replaced by the new 9mm pistol, so we can fire the same ammo as our NATO Allies who don't have the more powerful .45.

How much longer will the .45 be made? No one knows. But while it is, we're proud to salute the Americans of the ".45 Era" by issuing a separate, firing, commemorative .45 in honor of each of the four American armed forces that carried it.

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FROM JOHN R. WILLIAMS

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AMERICA'S

Crisis of the Spirit

The United States cannot lead the world unless we change our cornucopia of permissiveness, argues former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

OUR world spinning out of control? With wars flaring in countries that didn't exist a few years ago, and with U.S. politics increasingly divisive, no wonder so many Americans are deeply worried about the future.

The bad news is, "We are confronting a global crisis of the spirit and America is not exempted," says Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser in the Carter administration. He says there is mounting contempt by much of the world for a United States that increasingly is seen to represent little more than hedonism and consumerism.

But there also is good news, says Brzezinski, whose recent book, *Out of Control*, outlines the rising global turmoil on the eve of the 21st century. "There remains time to act...if the U.S. begins taking the steps to repair itself, domestically and internationally," he says.

Brzezinski, a counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and a professor of American foreign policy at Johns Hopkins University, explains why America needs "a revival of moral imperatives" in this interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Your book presents a disturbing picture of a world spinning out of control. Is the United States increasingly impotent in dealing with it?

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI: There are dangerous trends at work in America and the world—a global crisis of the spirit.

The failure of the former Soviet Union has presented the West with an unequalled opportunity to exercise global leadership, but we are not capitalizing on it. Effective leadership requires three ingredients—purpose, will, and direction—and they aren't present in today's America.

There are two choices before us. Either America can

assertively lead—which requires substantial internal renovation to provide the necessary moral basis. Or there will be widening global anarchy.

Q. Are you saying that the United States lacks the moral foundation to persuade the rest of the world that our way is best?

A. Our society increasingly is one of "permissive cornucopia," as I term it. Consumerism and hedonism are becoming our societal standards. Freedom is increasingly defined as the accumulation of rights and entitlements, and as a license for any form of self-gratification. That, in turn, tends to shape the global image of the United States in ways that do not benefit us.

Q. Exactly what must America do before we can exercise persuasive global leadership?

A. We have—and the world sees—sizable domestic challenges. By my count, there are 20, falling into three main categories—economic, social and spiritual. Among them are:

The national debt; the trade deficit; comparatively low rates of savings and investment; industrial noncompetitiveness; low productivity growth rates; inadequate health care; poor quality education; widespread urban decay; a greedy wealthy class; an obsession with litigation (one-third of the world's lawyers practice in the United States); deepening racial and poverty problems; widespread crime and violence (the United States has the civilized world's highest rate of homicide); a growing drug culture; the inbreeding of social hopelessness (there are several million second- and third-generation "addicts" to welfare); the profusion of sexual license; the propagation of moral corruption by movies and TV; a decline in civic consciousness (no longer do we demand that citizens sacrifice for the state); the emergence of potentially divisive multiculturalism (as we de-emphasize nationally unifying traditions and values and also our common language, we threaten to balkanize multiethnic



America); political gridlock; and a pervasive spread of spiritual emptiness.

The list is not in order of importance, but it provides an indication of the breadth and depth of the problems needing redress, both for America to renew itself and to reaffirm our capacity for global leadership.

Q. Can we make progress on these fronts?

A. With the economic problems, yes. America likely will continue to hold its own in the global economy. I am more concerned that we will not be able to cope quickly with the deeply embedded social problems. And I am still more concerned about our ability to resolve the cultural problems—the loss of values.

These deeper cultural problems cannot be corrected by public policy, but only by a pervasive social concern and a determination to change. That concern is beginning to develop, but I am very unsure that it is strong enough to redress these powerful negative trends.

Q. The United States still had a sense of national moral purpose into the '70s. Was it in the '80s when we drifted off course?

A. The trend has been in the making for several decades. But it is true that the '80s represented a turning point. That shows that blame should not be entirely placed in one political camp.

There is a tendency to blame the disappearance of strong values on liberals, since they reject a sharp demarca-

Please turn to page 58

HIGHLIGHTS

Zbigniew Brzezinski On...

American society: "Our society increasingly is one of 'permissive cornucopia.' Consumerism and hedonism are becoming our societal standards."

Who's to blame: "The hedonism that became dominant in the '80s is the result of a curious combination of liberalism and conservatism."

World leadership: "The only viable alternative to U.S. leadership is global anarchy, but China might emerge as a challenger some years hence."

America's image: "One billion Moslems will not be impressed by a West that is perceived as preaching the values of consumerism, the merits of amorality, and the blessings of atheism. To them, that message is repugnant."

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PRECISION—At the Steinway piano factory, no machine can perform the job of skilled craftsmen.

AMERICA'S

HANDMADE SUCCESS STORY

By Gordon Williams

IN A FACTORY in Astoria, Queens, just across the East River from Manhattan, foreman Ralf Dalleva urges on his six-man crew. The men must lift a 600-pound strip of laminated maple, 22-feet long and absolutely straight. Using brute strength, they bend the wood to fit into a form shaped roughly like a letter "D".

It takes 10 minutes to force the wood into the form. When the job is

To customers around the world, "Made in the U.S.A." means craftsmanship and quality, thanks to these businesses.

.....

done, and the last clamp tightened, the first step has been taken in making a \$62,000 Steinway concert grand piano. That wooden strip—made up of 18 layers of maple—is the frame of the piano. No machine can do what the 59-year-old Dalleva—a 32-year Steinway veteran—and his crew can do.

Neither can a machine make most

of the 12,000 parts that go into a Steinway concert grand. Nearly all are made by hand. It takes a year to assemble the parts into a piano, and even then the job is far from done. A "voicer" must spend days, using his finely trained ear to bring the piano's tone and sound to perfection for the pleasure of those who play it, and those who listen to it.

Not many products are made these days with the care and craftsmanship that go into a Steinway piano. But neither does American industry deserve the reputation it once had for mass-producing products of mediocre quality.

"The quality of American manufactured goods has improved dramatically," says Paul Borawski, executive director of the American Society for

Gordon Williams covers business for ABC radio. He wrote "Mom, Pop & Co." in the October issue of this magazine.

Quality Control. And the payoff is that foreign customers, who once shunned American products, now are buying them in record quantities.

The return to quality shouldn't be a surprise, however. We used to be a nation of artisans—skilled with our hands and proud of what we made. If most of industry strayed from that tradition, a hardcore of companies remained true to it. They kept making quality products the old-fashioned way by hand. This devotion to quality by a few has helped show the rest of American industry the way back.

Old-fashioned quality isn't cheap because handcraftsmanship can't be rushed. Steinway can build just 2,500 pianos a year in the Astoria factory where it has been building them since 1876. Even the cheapest Steinway piano—an upright model—costs \$11,500. But some handmade products are inexpensive enough that you could buy one with the change in your pocket.

All that is really needed to produce old-fashioned quality is a company willing to make the commitment. Give people the opportunity and they will always want to produce a quality product, says Borwaski of the Quality Control Society.

Here are some quality, mostly handmade American products recognized throughout the world. Some are made by companies that have been around for generations, and some by companies still young:

HICKEY-FREEMAN CO.
SUBSIDIARY OF HARTMARX CORP.

PRODUCT MEN'S SUITS
PRICE \$900 TO \$1,500

What distinguishes a top-of-the-line man's suit from something cheaper is the amount of handwork involved. Company executive vice-president Howard Zenner notes that nearly all of the 120 steps involved in making a Hickey-Freeman suit coat are done by hand. What that means for the buyer, he says, is a better fitting, better-looking garment that also should wear better.

Each Hickey-Freeman tailor is a specialist in a particular job: one doing the undercollar, another the armhole, and so on. Some joined the company as apprentices and learned on the job. But the company also finds skilled European tailors and recruits them for its Rochester, N.Y., factory.

HANDMADE

*OLD-FASHIONED
quality isn't
cheap because
craftsmanship
cannot be rushed.*

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craftsman
laminates a piano
top. Few machines
can make the
12,000 parts of a
concert grand.

ARNOLD ADLER



DETAILS—Each of the 2,000 saddles Smith-Worthington Saddlery Co. makes per year involves hundreds of highly detailed steps.



R. HANKS

Everything about a top-quality suit should be smooth, says Zenner. The button should slip easily into the buttonhole. "When you put your arm through the shoulder, the armhole has to have the least amount of resistance," Zenner says. "Your arm just goes through without any degree of constraint at all."

IMPERIAL SCHRADER CORP.

PRODUCT KNIVES
PRICE \$14.95 TO \$600

The amazing thing about a pocketknife is how complicated it is, and how much handcraftsmanship you get for relatively little money. A three-bladed pocket knife from Schrade of Ellenville, N.Y., involves 120 hand operations, but sells for less than \$20. Schrade's single-bladed Old Timer model—also mostly handmade—sells for \$14.95. Jim Economos, the corporation's vice president for operations, says each blade in a pocketknife has a different function. So each blade has a different size, shape, thickness and angle. "No machine can hold each blade at the precise angle and sharpen it," he says. Only a skilled worker can do it.

Schrade tries to keep the work interesting by frequently shifting knife makers from one job to

another. "Boredom hurts quality," says Economos. It takes two years of training before a knife maker can do every job in the plant.

At the top of the knife-making skills are the master cutlers such as Harold Buley. Buley joined Schrade in 1965 and today is quality control supervisor. Part of his job is to make custom knives that sell for as much as \$600. What makes him a master cutler? "Give him a chunk of steel and a chink of bone and say, 'make a knife,' and he will," Economos explains.

SMITH-WORTHINGTON SADDLERY CO.

PRODUCT CUSTOM-MADE LEATHER SADDLES
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Clinton Hanks doesn't run the company any more. His 47-year-old son Curtis does. But Clinton, 77, says he

Please turn to page 52

B. MCCANDLESS/PH

CUTTING-EDGE QUALITY—

Harold Buley, a master cutler and quality control supervisor for Imperial Schrade Corp., handcrafts custom knives that sell for as much as \$600.



HOW THE HEALTH PLAN AFFECTS VETERANS

VETERANS who have been denied care from VA may be eligible for VA treatment if President Clinton's national health-care reform is adopted, according to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown.

In a telephone interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE and three other veterans groups, Brown outlined the administration's plan and VA's role in it, stressing that VA would remain an independent agency. If approved by Congress, it would go into effect in 1998.

- All veterans will have access to VA.

- Service-connected and low-income veterans still will receive free treatment.

- Other veterans can choose VA as their primary health-care provider and pay deductibles and copayments for their care.

- Service-connected veterans who do not choose VA coverage still will receive free treatment for specialized needs or for items not covered under their own plan.

- The Secretary will have the option of providing VA treatment to veterans' dependents, but does not plan to do this immediately, if at all. Brown says, however, he wants VA to be the health-care manager for the veteran's entire family, but he plans to contract out dependents' care.

Brown admitted there was still much to be worked out. One aspect of the plan certain to draw much attention in Congress, according to Brown, is health-care coverage for employed service-connected veterans.

Under the plan, a service-connected veteran's employer would pay 80 percent of the veteran's health-care premium and VA would pick up the remaining 20 percent. The veteran would be exempt from paying any copayments or deductibles required of other employees.

A self-employed, service-connected veteran, however, would have to pay the entire premium just as any other self-employed person. But,

**"I BELIEVE
veterans will
choose VA
as their
health-care
provider
when the
time
comes."**

**—Jesse Brown
VA Secretary**



JOHN E. SIMON

Brown said that if the veteran chose VA as his medical provider, VA would refund his premium.

One aspect of the program that requires more study is what to do about veterans who do not live near VA facilities. Brown said that for VA to survive, it must be able to compete with other health-care providers.

But with most of the 171 VA hospitals located in major metropolitan areas, many veterans living in outlying areas would find it difficult, if not impossible, to seek VA treatment, according to Legion experts. Brown said it would put VA "at an extreme disadvantage if a veteran has to make a choice about enrolling in the VA plan and going 200 miles to get care, when he can walk right down the street to a private hospital," he said.

Brown said that if VA is to play a role in a national health-care system, it must become competitive and coax veterans into choosing VA from among the array of programs. To do this, he said VA must cut down on patient waiting time, improve staff attitudes and make its facilities more attractive. Brown also expects the federal government to lift advertising restrictions so that VA can launch a media campaign to sell its health-care plan to veterans.

"This is good news for veterans. When the time comes, I believe that veterans will choose VA as their health-care provider," Brown said.

National Commander Bruce Thiesen, however, isn't quite as optimistic as Brown. "Improvements in facilities, treatment and staff all require money, one thing the VA has been short of for more than a decade," he said. "Even Secretary Brown admits he sees little hope of any major appropriations in the near future."

Brown says that money to upgrade both facilities and personnel will come from "new funding streams once National Health Care is approved." "We will also be reimbursed by Medicare and third-party insurers, plus funds from the health-care alliance for each patient enrolled in our plan."

In the meantime, Brown says VA will continue to get appropriated funds for low-income and service-connected disabled veterans, domiciliaries, PTSD units, mental health-care and research.

"While Brown is clearly excited by VA's role under the administration's plan, nothing will be in place until 1998," said Thiesen. "That gives Congress three long years to debate, modify or scrap the plan. But, in the war on escalating health-care costs, the first shot has finally been fired." □



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—Ed Pearson, New York

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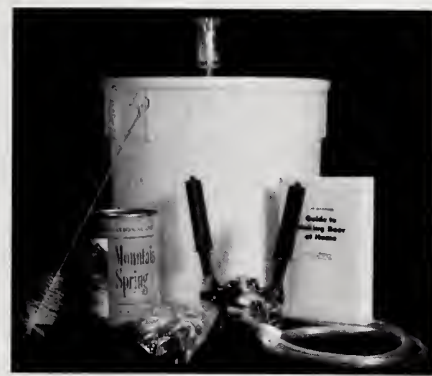
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FLOODED HOLIDAYS: THE NEF IN ACTION

ACROSS the nation, Legionnaires helped make the holiday season happier for victims of last summer's Midwest flood by giving money, toys and Christmas trees. Putting together this giant holiday present was Bruce Coleman of Post 293 in Purcellville, Va., who organized The American Legion Families' Toys for Christmas Campaign.

Coleman and other Legionnaires kicked off the campaign by collecting toys during The American Legion Department of Virginia's fall conference in early November. "We're especially targeting children of the flood because many of them lost toys," said Coleman. "We hope to have

the toys at a central distribution site in the flood zone in early December."

Coleman was successful in getting Wal-Mart to lend semitrailers to transport the toys to sites in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

The response to the toy collection campaign has been enormous, according to Coleman. He says mid-Atlantic states, including Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina and the District of Columbia, have pitched in and East Coast radio stations also helped by plugging the campaign over the air. In addition to Legionnaires, businesses and schools are also gathering toys.

Other Legionnaires are continuing to provide assistance to flood victims. For example, Maine Legion-



HO HO HELP—Legionnaires from the Department of Virginia collected toys to send to children who were victims of the Great Flood of '93.

naire Dick Hammond of Post 51 in Oakland was planning to deliver 500 turkeys and 500 Christmas trees to needy Midwest Legionnaires.

"People out there are still having to stay in temporary

housing and face a variety of problems cleaning up after the flood. So they still need assistance," National Commander Bruce Thiesen said.

Another way Legionnaires can help disaster victims is to contribute to The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF). The NEF has given more than \$200,000 in grants to victims of the floods, including six Legion Posts.

Legionnaires attending the eight National Leadership Workshops answered Thiesen's call for donations to the NEF by giving a total of \$46,689.50. The following Departments headed the list of donations:

Connecticut	\$20,480
Indiana	\$6,400
Virginia	\$5,376
Texas	\$1,770
Arizona	\$1,573
North Dakota	\$1,269
Georgia	\$911
Washington	\$324

Send your donations to:

**The National
Emergency Fund
The American Legion
P.O. Box 6141
Indianapolis, IN 46206** □

POSTS BOAST SUCCESS

ONE OF the 24 American Legion Posts damaged by the Great Flood of '93 still needs Post Partners to speed recovery. Post 231 of Farmington, Iowa, was flooded by two feet of water and suffered structural damage and equipment loss.

"The Post Partnership program shows the Legion's devotion to mutual helpfulness," said National Commander Bruce Thiesen. "I urge all Posts to consider forming Post Partnerships with Midwest Posts that need help."

To help out, call Wayne Vanover at National Headquarters, (317) 630-1200.

FLOODED POST	POST PARTNER
Post 682, Warsaw, Ill.	Post 85, Arlington, Va.
Post 636, Hardin, Ill.	Post 1029, Island Park, N.Y.
Post 1061, Hull, Ill.	Post 11, Brookline, Mass.
	Post 790, West Covina, Calif.
Post 1971, New Boston, Ill.	Post 342, St. Charles, Ill.
Post 1083, Kampsville, Ill.	Post 9, Salem, Ore.
Post 648, Grafton, Ill.	Post 750, Lowell, Ohio
	Post 72, Crawfordville, Ind.
Post 900, McClure, Ill.	Post 165, Miamisburgh, Ohio
Post 487, Chester, Ill.	Post 499, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Post 1176, Biggsville, Ill.	Post 621, Dallas, Texas
Post 247, Dallas City, Ill.	Post 268, Wheaton, Md.
Post 622, Prairie Du Rocher, Ill.	Post 331, Bridgman, Mich.
Post 901, Valmeyer, Ill.	Post 101, Lowell, Ind.

FLOODED POST	POST PARTNER
Post 157, Nehawka, Neb.	Post 444, Morganhill, Calif.
	Post 25, Wymore, Neb.
Post 161, Wathena, Kan.	Post and Unit 253, Spotswood, N.J.
Post 255, Tescott, Kan.	Post 790, West Covina, Calif.
Post 318, Parkville, Mo.	Post 88, Indianapolis, Ind.
	Auxiliary Unit 49, South Haved, Mich.
Post 424, Hartsburg, Mo.	Post 787, West Point, Calif.
Post 620, West Des Moines, Iowa.	Post 1006, Brentwood, N.Y.
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B. Original A-2 Leather Pilot's Jacket. Original design to military specs. Genuine top-grain cowhide. Reg. retail price: \$275.

Our Price: \$159.

C. G-1 Navy Flight Jacket. Intermediate weight cowhide leather. Original 1944 pattern. Contoured pocket flaps. Under arm gussets and bi-swing back. Reg. retail price: \$275.

Our Price: \$159.

D. B-3 Sheepskin Jacket. Made from superior shearing pelts chosen for luxurious thickness, texture, and unsurpassed warmth. Reg. retail price: \$495.

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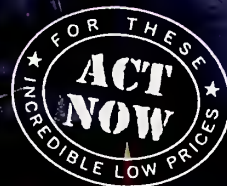
E. B-7 Flight Jacket. Soft and supple, premium top grain leather. Oversized jacket features side and top entry pockets. A truly outstanding design in a military style jacket. Reg. Retail Price: \$395.

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CATCH THE MEMBERSHIP FEVER

ALL Legionnaires are being encouraged by National Headquarters to join "the starting lineup and play sound ball" to make the Legion's 75th year a Championship Season in membership recruiting.

Some Legion Departments have already excelled in their membership recruiting efforts. For example, the Department of Kansas had the highest renewal percentage of 1993 members by Sept. 21 and won a trip for two to the first game of the 1993 World Series.

As the Championship Season progresses, these other membership-recruiting incentives will be offered:

- Legionnaires who renew their membership will be eligible for one of 25 \$1,000 prizes to be awarded at the Renewal Enhancement Drawing on Jan. 15.

- All Departments over the 80-percent renewal mark by Jan. 7 will receive a special recognition and gifts at the Championship Season luncheon hosted by National Commander Bruce Thiesen at the Washington Conference, Feb. 14.

- District commanders having the highest percentage of District membership over the final 1993 membership by March 31 will win an all-expense paid trip to the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.

- Each Post achieving 101 percent of its 1994 goal by June 21, 1994, will receive a Championship Season Honor Ribbon.

...

As the Championship Season nears the seventh-inning stretch, last year's best



THE AMERICAN LEGION

recruiters reveal the reasons for their success.

Joseph Chilelli, Judge Advocate for Post 790 of West Covina, Calif., was named the Legion's top recruiter for the second straight year. Chilelli credits tenacity and plain old-fashioned hard work for recruiting 750 new members. He set up booths at gun shows and county fairs, and often spent 16 hours a day showing veterans what the Legion

does for them and the community.

For Kervin Bradford, a life member of Post 573 in Harker Heights, Texas, keeping in touch with his old Army outfit helped earn him second place. "I sent Christmas cards to all members of the 8th Engineering Bn. in Iraq," said Bradford. He contacted all 400-plus members again when they returned to Texas, inviting them to join the Legion. Most signed up, bringing his total of new Legionnaires to 434 for the year.

John Liberatore, Commander of Post 90 at Cape Coral, Fla., ranked third by recruiting 316 new members. Liberatore said he succeeded in recruiting members by using National Headquarters resources, including lists of potential members, flyers and brochures. Liberatore's parting advice: "Always follow up." □

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Post 49 of Smithfield, Va., honored WWI Navy veteran Granville A. Starke for 70 years of Legion membership. Starke is a charter member of the Post.

Post 42 of Utuado, Puerto Rico, received the Department's Cuchi Coll Trophy as the best Post for the second consecutive year. Commander Norberto Bernacet led Post 42's membership drive, which doubled its previous year's membership.

Post 676 of Springfield, Mo., built and maintains an avenue of flags in the national cemetery located at Springfield.

Legionnaires of **Post 359 of Carrizo Springs, Texas**, have volunteered to pick up trash along a two-mile stretch of highway in their area.

WWI veteran John Flournay almost had to spend the Fourth of July without a hot meal. The local meals on wheels ran out of funds and had to suspend service. But **Post 1 of Phoenix, Ariz.**, served up hot meals for Flournay after hearing about his plight.

Post 151 of Philadelphia warms the stomachs and hearts of the homeless by providing free soup, bread and beverages every Wednesday.

Post 41 of Whitefield, N.H., donated a flag and flag pole to the National Affordable Housing Program.

Post 272 of Pollock, S.D., recognized 100-year-old Arthur Kluckman, one of the Post's charter members, for his 70 years of continuous Legion membership. □

North Carolina NECman Dies



LONGTIME National Executive Committeeman Robert A. Tart, 68, died Oct. 14. He had been the North Carolina Department NECman since August 1972. A member of Post 109, Benson, N.C., Tart served in many American Legion National and Department offices throughout the years.

At the time of his death, he was Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission Liaison Committee, and a member of the WWII Commemorative Committee and the Advisory Committee to the National Commander.

A WWII Navy veteran, Tart also served as the Department of North Carolina Commander from 1970-72. Survivors include his wife, Annie Lee; son, Robert A. Tart Jr.; and daughters, Patsy Ennis and Janet Russ. Condolences may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 309, Benson, NC 27504. The family requests that any memorial contributions be sent to: The Benson United Methodist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 72, Benson, NC 27504. □

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3rd General Hospital (WWII) #10111
3rd Inf. Div., 10th FA Bn., B Btry. - Korea (1953-54)
#13333
3rd Inf. Div. Society #22974
6th Inf. Div., 1st Rgt., 2nd Bn., HQ Co. #20584
7th Inf. Div., 17th Trans. Bn., Co. "B" (Camp Casey)
#13346
8th FA Osb. Bn. #13295
8th Inf. Div., 13th Rgt. (WWII) #16337
10th Mtn. Div., 126th Mtn. Eng. Bn. #13363
15th T.C. Bn., A Co. (Ankhe, Vietnam, 1965-66) #13345
16th Maj. Port. 6, New Orleans/Wales/France (WWII)
#13331
17th A/B Div., 681st A/B FA #20779
24th Inf. Div.: 21st Rgt., 2nd Bn., E,F,G,H Co. (Korea
1950/51) #12095
24th Inf. Div.: 21st Rgt., L Co. (Korea 1950/51) #12001
24th Inf. Div., 26th AAA AW Bn., A Btry (3/49-7/53)
#11114
24th Inf. Div., 34th Rgt., 3rd Bn., I,K,L,M Cos. (Korea
1950/51) #11154
25th Spec. Serv. Co. #13386
28th Rgt., 1st & 2nd Bns. "Black Lions" (Vietnam)
#20646
32nd Inf. Div., Red Arrow Club of FL #21786
34th Inf. Div., 168th Rgt., Co. "E" #13357
40th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII) #16208
40th Inf. Div., 223rd Rgt., 1st Bn., A Co. #14812
43rd Inf. Div. Assn. #15700
62nd Engr. Const. Bn. (Korea, 1950-53) #14903
74th CA (AA)/370th Eng Combat Bn WWII Assn #16715
76th Engr. Cons. Bn. (Korea, 1950/53) #23016
80th Inf. Div. Assn. (WWI, WWII) #12422
84th Engr. Const. Bn. (Korea, 1950-53) #14727
84th Inf. Div. "Rallsplitter Soc" #15955
86th Inf. Div., 341st Rgt., 1st Bn., HQ Co. (1943-45)
#13320
89th Chem. Mortar Bn. #10691
93rd Evac. Hospital/Adjacent Units (Vietnam, 1965-71)
#11061
94th Inf. Div. Assn. (WWII) #16560
97th Inf. Div., 303rd Rgt., 2nd Bn., C Co. (1945) #13782
104th Inf. Div.: "Timberwolves Natl Assn" #14883
114th AAA Btry. B & C #13338
172nd Engr. Combat Bn. (WWII) #18706
202nd Engr.(C) Bn., C Co. - (WWII) #16187
225th AAA, S/L Bn. (WWII) #30139
226th Ord. Base Gp., HQ & HQ Det. (WWII) #13375
255th FA Bn. (WWII) #16130
264th FA Bn. (WWII) #15315
293rd Engr. Const. Bn. #11111
325th Hospital Train - Unit Assn. (1950-52) #14160
332nd Engr. Rgt. Assn. #16382
348th Engr. Assn. (WWII) #13379
400th Trans. Det. (Vietnam) #13340

406th FA Grp., HQ Btry. (ETO Camp Maxy, WWII)
#15773
466th Air Service Group (ETO, WWII) #13148
533rd EB & SR, Co. A #13347
533rd EB & SR, HQ Bn. #16356
543rd EB & SR, C Co. #16237
544th EB & SR, Co. C (N. Guinea, P.I. & Japan, WWII)
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565th AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #10183
579th AAA AW Bn., B Btry. (WWII) #14342
742nd M.P. Bn. #13332
746th Railway Oper. Bn., All Company Members
#16258
750th Tank Bn., Co. "B" (WWII) #13384
787th Tank Bn., B Co. (WWII) #16700
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1253rd Engr. (C) Bn. (ETO WII) #13349
1878th Eng. Avn. Bn., Co. C #13361
3137th Slg. Motor Messenger Co. (WWII, ETO) #12731
Alchi Military Govt. Team: Nagoya, Japan (WWII)
#15781
ASA: HQ, ASAPAC (1946/52) #12046
Far East Cmd.: Tokyo; GHQ, Hq. & Serv. Cmd., Staff
Bn., C Co. (APO 50) #16392
IFFV Arty (& Assigned Units) (Vietnam, 1966-72) #13095
National Counter Intelligence Corps Assn (NCICA)
#10935
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16th NCB #17436
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Alrship Fleet Atlantic Staff, HQ Sq., Det. 12 (1942-44)
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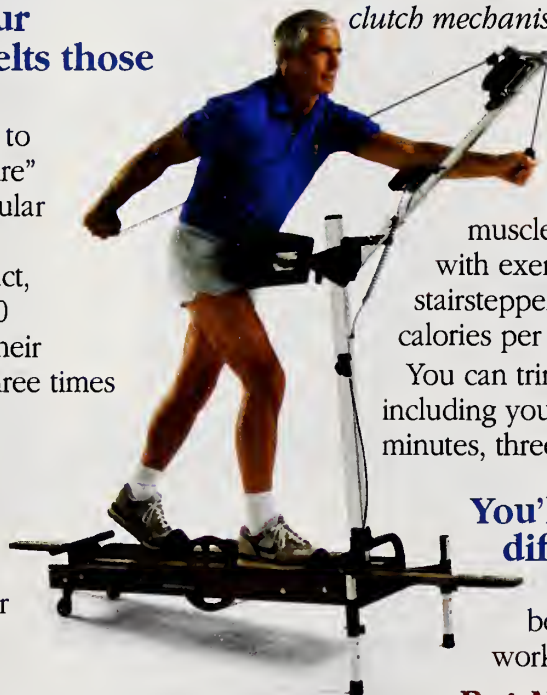
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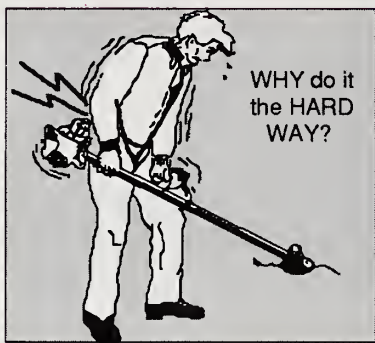
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UNDER FIRE

Continued from page 26

ence, Virginia adopted a limit of one handgun per month in 1993. Bills now have been introduced in Congress by Rep. Robert Torricelli and Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey to do the same thing for the whole country.

I talked with Susan Lamson, director of federal affairs for the National

Rifle Association, about the "one gun a month" bills. According to Lamson, "These bills limiting the number of guns that a citizen can acquire in a given time period are among the most insidious laws now being proposed. Their backers ask the seemingly innocent question, 'Why does anyone need to obtain more than one gun a month?' But that's not the real question."

As Lamson points out, "The real question is, 'Why should government be able to abridge the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens?' Once the principle is established that gun

LEGION'S POSITION ON GUN CONTROL

THE AMERICAN Legion opposes any law and regulation that would prevent law-abiding citizens from exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Delegates to the 73rd National Convention in Phoenix supported this position in 1991 by unanimously passing Res. 262. The resolution noted that 1 million times each year law-abiding citizens use firearms to thwart crime. Delegates to the 72nd National Convention in Indianapolis also passed a similar resolution, Res. 89.

In addition, The American Legion created the Junior Shooting Sports Program in 1988 to teach gun safety and provide local and national competition for high school students. □

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ownership can be rationed by the government, you can bet that there will be moves to limit purchases to one a year, or one a lifetime. Or less."

AMMUNITION BAN

If you can't ban the guns, maybe you can ban the ammunition. That's apparently the thinking of yet another New York politician, Sen. Daniel Moynihan. Well, not exactly. Moynihan wants to ban guns, too.

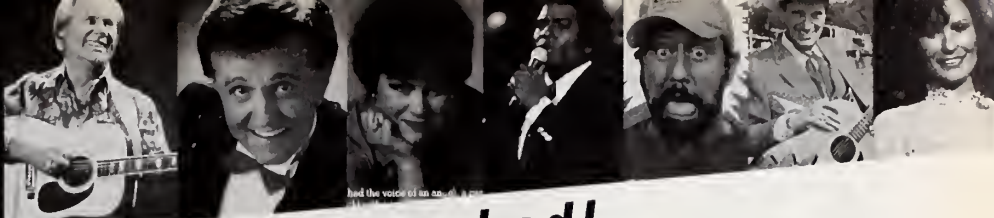
Moynihan believes we can solve the crime problem in this country by banning the manufacture and sale of all .25- and .32-caliber cartridges, together with 9mm ammunition—except for sales to the government. If he can't get that bill through Congress, he's got a backup bill that would impose a 1,000 percent tax on ammunition for those calibers.

What if Moynihan's bills actually worked? We'd all have him to thank when the bad guys switched to .357s and .45s instead of those little .25s. But I'm sure Sen. Moynihan would be a step ahead of us, with bans on .357s, .45s, .38s, .44s, 10mms, .380s and .22s.

THE INDIRECT APPROACH

In his book, *Strategy*, B.H. Liddell Hart popularized the "strategy of the indirect approach," which counsels

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UNDER FIRE

Continued from page 44

that direct frontal assaults are to be avoided in war. Some Congressmen are taking a page from his book.

One indirect way to restrict access by citizens to firearms is to make them more expensive. Identical bills introduced in the House and Senate would impose a 25 percent tax on the sale by

manufacturers of handguns, assault weapons, large capacity magazines and ammunition used in handguns and assault weapons. The definition of "assault weapon" is so broad that most types of ammunition would be covered.

The bills would also impose a 25 percent tax on subsequent sales of handguns and the other items listed, even between private parties.

Another indirect approach is to attack the American firearms industry. A bill by Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois would increase the annual license fee

for federal firearms dealers by 7,500 percent. It would allow an unlimited number of warrantless searches of dealers' premises by federal agents and impose other requirements that would make it more difficult to obtain and keep a license.

The bill would have the greatest impact on small dealers, many of whom would be driven out of business. Perhaps Simon already thought of that.

Illinois Rep. Cardiss Collins has a bill that is even more pernicious. It would allow anyone injured by a discharge of a handgun or assault weapon to sue the manufacturer, importer or dealer who sold the gun.

The bill would hold the sellers "strictly liable." That means that persons injured or their relatives could recover money damages in court possibly running into the millions of dollars.

It also means the sellers would be responsible, even if the gun were not defective and even if the persons were intentionally shot by criminals during crimes.

Essentially, the bill would hold gun manufacturers and dealers liable for all murders and felonious assaults in which a handgun was employed. So long, Colt. Sayonara, Smith and Wesson.

A FEW BRIGHT SPOTS

Not every bit of news is bad, however. Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho has introduced an alternative to the Brady Bill that would provide for a computerized instant check for handgun buyers. Five states have successfully implemented such point-of-sale systems. Unlike the Brady Bill, Craig's bill would protect the rights of legitimate purchasers.

Better yet, Rep. Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland has proposed the Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 1993. It provides that anyone not prohibited by federal law from receiving a firearm "shall have the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family or home."

A person whose self-defense right was violated could bring suit to halt the violation or to recover damages. Think of the abusive state and local laws that would topple if that bill were enacted.

But on the whole, the Second Amendment rights of American citizens are under attack like never before. Americans have fought overseas to preserve basic freedoms for other countries. Now the fight for constitutional liberties has come home. □

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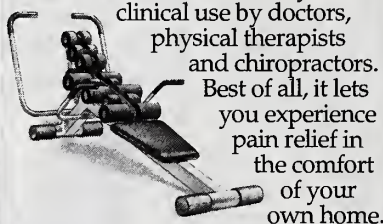
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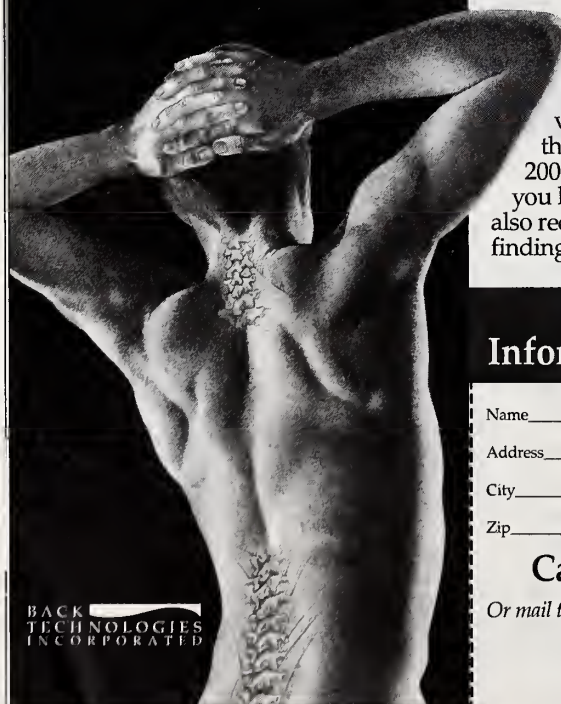
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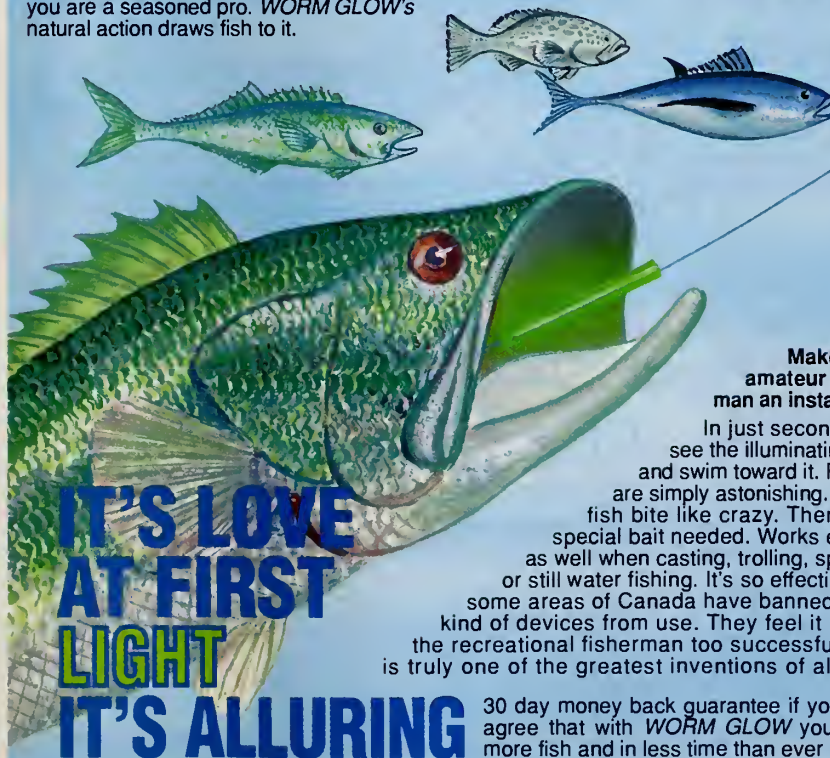
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for HOOKS
The glow increases
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Glow adds
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**Makes any
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In just seconds fish see the illuminating light and swim toward it. Results are simply astonishing. Makes fish bite like crazy. There's no special bait needed. Works equally as well when casting, trolling, spinning or still water fishing. It's so effective that some areas of Canada have banned these kind of devices from use. They feel it makes the recreational fisherman too successful! This is truly one of the greatest inventions of all time.

30 day money back guarantee if you don't agree that with **WORM GLOW** you catch more fish and in less time than ever before.

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3038 N.W. 25th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL 33069

30 day money back guarantee if you are not absolutely satisfied.

- ☐ 5 **WORM GLOWS** for only \$5.95 plus \$2.00 shipping & handling (total \$7.95)
- ☐ Save! 10 **WORM GLOWS** for only \$9.95 plus \$3.00 shipping & handling (total \$12.95)
- ☐ Save! 20 **WORM GLOWS** for only \$18.95 plus \$4.00 shipping & handling (total \$22.95)

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STARS & STRIPES

FOREVER Commemorative Military Watches

for readers of American Legion Magazine who served in Army, Navy, Air Force & Marines

In honor of those who proclaim their patriotism by serving in our country's Armed Forces, we proudly present this extraordinarily crafted and very affordable United States commemorative dress watch. It's exclusively designed for men and women and their spouses, who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines. A true keepsake that you will treasure for years to come.

Now you can have a personalized watch

Its distinctive rich styling proudly displays your service branch insignia in full color and clear detail. Its many outstanding features include beveled 14k gold layered trim and 14k gold layered dials. The American Bald Eagle in his inspiring grandeur is proudly displayed. All this plus a fine quartz movement that is accurate within seconds per month. Comes complete with an elegant, adjustable, two-tone gold and silver, interlocking, highly polished finish watch band. This is truly a proud watch to wear.

One of a kind wrist watch

The back of the watch has plenty of room for your initials, the Armed Force division you were a member of and the years you served. Imagine, now you can own a truly one of a kind wrist watch which says I am an American and proud of it! This ruggedly built, fashionable watch is perfect for all occasions.

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In honor of
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Clear back
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Comes with a 30 day Money Back Guarantee

- ☐ Men's Watch ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines
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- ☐ One Military Watch is only \$44.95 Plus \$3.00 shipping.
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CORDLESS DOOR CHIMES



You won't have to worry about ever missing anyone again. Great for any door in your home. Ideal for the hearing impaired. Transmitter has a 50 ft. range. Requires a 9 volt & 2 AA batteries.

Similar to as seen on TV

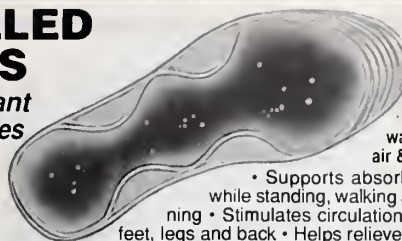
Chimes work within 50 ft. of push bell

Plug receiver into any house outlet

Door Chime only \$14⁹⁵

GEL FILLED INSOLES

Give you instant pain relief. Eases the pounding of nerve endings.



• Supports absorb shock while standing, walking and running • Stimulates circulation to your feet, legs and back • Helps relieve cramps

• Our insert pads gently lift the metatarsal bones, giving you instant relief • Adds a new sense of total relaxation

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Think how wonderful it would feel to walk without pain. Now there's instant relief for those of us who suffer from the terrible discomfort of callouses, burning feet, aching arches and heel problems. Lightweight. Automatically mold your shoes for a custom fit every time. Easily adjustable, one size fits all.



Similar products sell for \$19.95

OUR PRICE \$4⁹⁵

CALLER ID DISPLAY

Lets you know who's calling you before you pick up the phone



Now you can know who's calling you even before you pick up your phone. Screens your calls for you plus when you're away, stores up to 14 calls with the caller's numbers, date, and time. Even shows private and out of area calls. The repeat call indicator lets you know who called more than once. Eliminates irritating and unwanted conversations. All data is conveniently displayed on one easy to read LCD screen. Requires a 9 volt battery. Fast and easy to install allowing you to use your local phone caller I.D. service. Includes a 7 foot cord with two modular jacks. Perfect for your desk, or wall mounting.

Why pay \$100.00? Caller I.D. Display only \$64⁹⁵

NOW KEEP THEM GUESSING WITH

VOICE CHANGER PHONE

Your closest Friends won't recognize you



Score off unwanted & Annoying phone calls - Easy to use

This amazing telephone lets you at the touch of a button disguise your voice so you can instantly sound like someone else. 6 different voice change settings - Female to a big bad male, Children to an adult - to name a few. Screen calls by answering in a different voice - they won't know it's you. Or flip the switch and it's you. Complete telephone - simply plug in and use.



Similar To SEEN ON TV

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STOP BACK PAIN!

with our latest back support wrap belt.



Its unique design comes with a lumbar support pressure pad insert built right in. It gives support and reduces pressure on your spine. Just as important, it gently applies pressure to your lower back. Results - you get instant relief from back discomfort and back pain. One size fits all.

Now you can move about without saying OH, MY ACHING BACK! No work loss. No sleep loss.

Machine washable. Made of breathable material so it feels very comfortable when wearing it. Adjustable Velcro Closure. Similar Products sell for \$79.95.

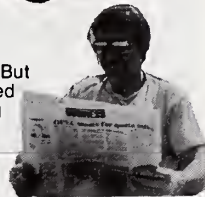
Lumbar Support Belt only \$9⁹⁵

HEAR A WHISPER))) HALF A BLOCK AWAY with SUPERHEAR

Similar units used by law and order agents. Now available for private use.

- Superhear state-of-the-art electronic microchips pick up sound 360° around you.
- Detectives, law enforcement agents and surveillance experts use these types of devices.
- Warning! Spying on private conversations without their approval is illegal.

Superhear is actually disguised as an ordinary radio. But that's where the similarity ends. Its high tech integrated circuitry with electronic microchips is really an amazing super listening device. Slip on the adjustable stereo headphones - Presto! Start listening. Lightweight (Batteries not incl.)

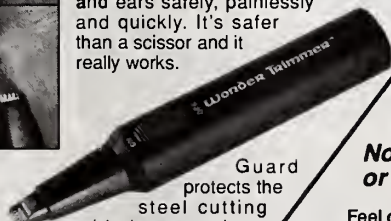


Superhear only \$7⁹⁵

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For small and delicate places

Our cordless precision trimmer is perfect for removing hair from your nose, eyebrows and ears safely, painlessly and quickly. It's safer than a scissor and it really works.

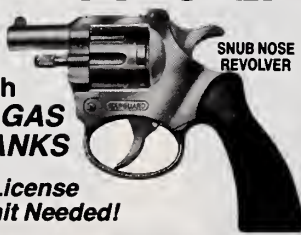


Guard protects the steel cutting blades assuring that no moving parts come in contact with your tender skin while its high speed action is powered by 1 AA battery (not incl.). Safe to use even without mirror. Approximately 6" long.

Personal Trimmer was \$7.95

Now only \$5⁹⁵

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with TEAR GAS or BLANKS

No Federal License or Gun Permit Needed!

Feel completely safe and secure wherever you go. Yes! In just seconds you can immediately disable any attackers. Because now you are armed with the most effective .22 calibre non-lethal tear-gas handgun ever devised. Each shot sounds so real that the intruder will be easily scared away - and well he should be! But the best part is that you do not need a federal firearms license or gun permit to own or carry these personal protective weapons. So now you can walk without fear. Our snub nose revolver is the famous Vanguard model 8-shot side loading cylinder. So don't take crime lying down. Fight Back and Win!

10 TEAR GAS CARTRIDGES \$8⁹⁵

100 EXTRA-LOUD .22 BLANKS \$10⁹⁵

8 SHOT SNUB NOSE ONLY \$34⁹⁵

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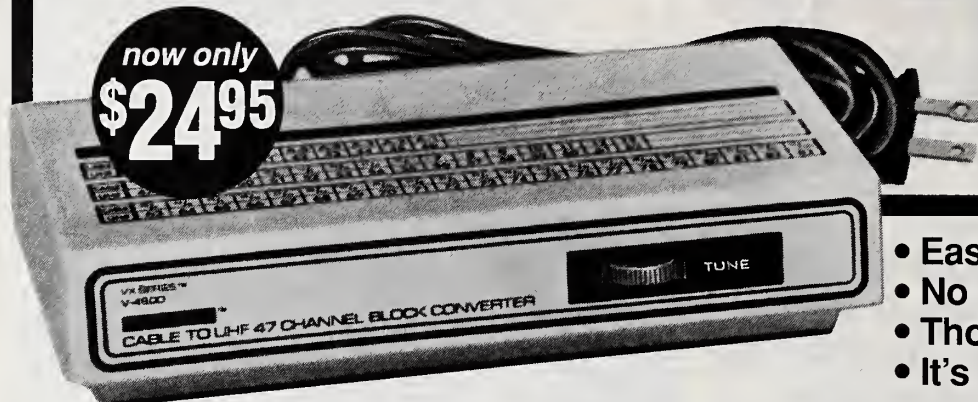
Qty.	Price	Total
☐ Personal Trimmer	\$5.95	
☐ Gel Insoles per pair	4.95	
☐ Gel Insoles two pairs	8.95	
☐ Caller I.D. Display	64.95	
☐ Door Chime	14.95	
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NATIONAL 47 CHANNEL CABLE CONVERTER

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\$24⁹⁵

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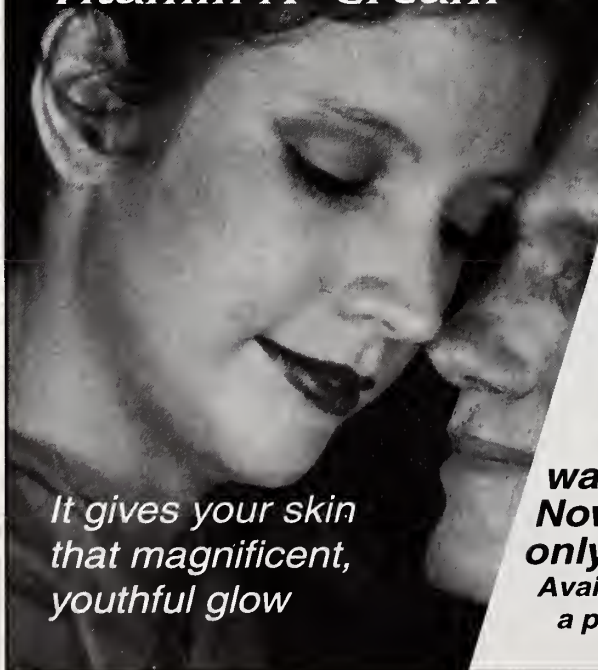
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Our Converter does it all for you in minutes!

Imagine! Now you can have cable TV without the monthly cable box rental cost. That's right! Our 47 channel cable TV converter can easily be hooked up in seconds. Result - you get 47 channels that are normally broadcast only by the cable companies. Measures just 7" x 3". State of the art electronics.

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*Now every woman becomes
A Skin specialist with
**Wrinkle Free
RETINOL
Vitamin "A" Cream***



*It gives your skin
that magnificent,
youthful glow*

was \$12⁹⁵
Now \$4⁹⁵
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Available without
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*Beautiful Lasting Skin Care Happens with **RETINOL** Vitamin "A" Cream*

Starting with your very first application our Retinol Vitamin A wrinkle cream will appear to transform your skin to a lovelier, smoother, more beautiful complexion. Your skin looks and feels younger with every application. Our cream is specially designed to help stimulate skin that has been dried out and damaged by today's make-up and harsh environment. Our moisturizing action replaces the vital moisture which prematurely aged skin cannot produce. In addition it protects your delicate skin giving you a robust, healthy vibrant complexion. Those ugly lines, crows feet and wrinkles are actually softened. Result - your skin looks more radiant and silky smooth to the touch. It is not a drug. Completely safe to use. Just a dab once a day is all you need to protect and nourish your skin. Easy to apply. Never greasy. Retinol Vitamin A cream comes in a generous 2 oz. jar

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30 Day Money Back Guarantee

- ☐ Retinol Vitamin A Cream 30 day supply only \$4.95 plus \$2.00 shipping & handling
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60 LBS OF TOMATOES FROM ONE TREE PLANT



**Constantly harvesting all season
Treat it like any fruit tree!**

Imagine! Now you can have large, red, juicy tomatoes up to 60 pounds each year. So why settle for a few short weeks of tomatoes every year? Not to mention the back breaking time it takes to plant them. Our perennial tomato harvesting tree yields garden fresh succulent tomatoes so abundant they seem to grow as quickly as you pick them. There's plenty of these delicious, plump, tomatoes to go around for family and friends. Frankly, it's the best tasting tomato you will ever eat. This incredible horticultural concept from New Zealand is not to be confused with an

ordinary vine or a tomato plant. It is really a tomato tree that bears bushel after bushel of mouth watering flavor - up to 7 months outdoors and all year round indoors. Grows to a full 8 ft. high or you can simply trim this exotic beautiful tree to any size. Best of all, there is no staking, no pruning, no caging, no trimming and no special care. We ship mature plants, not seeds.



**Juicy
delicious
zooms to 8 ft. tall**



**Can be grown indoors
or on outdoor patios**

**• No Staking • No Pruning
• No Caging • No Trimming**

**Less Than 1¢ FOR ONE
LARGE TOMATO**

You save on your grocery bills while enjoying these delectable tomatoes. They're simply fabulous in your salads, sandwiches, and spaghetti sauce. Even eating these yummy tomatoes by themselves is a real treat. There's nothing like the taste of fresh home grown tomatoes. Can easily be grown indoors or outdoors. All plants are guaranteed to arrive in perfect condition. So simply step back and watch your tree quickly zoom to the full height desired and supply you with yummy garden fresh tomatoes. Shipped at proper planting time.

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- ☐ One Tomato Tree only \$6.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling
- ☐ Two Tomato Trees only \$11.95 plus \$2.50 shipping
- ☐ Three Tomato Trees only \$15.95 plus \$3.00 shipping

Name _____

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State _____ Zip _____

CRAFTSMEN

Continued from page 33

still can do any of the tasks involved in making a saddle. That's no easy job, since each of the 2,000 saddles Smith-Worthington makes each year at its factory in Hartford, Conn., involves hundreds of highly detailed, hand-crafted steps.

The company was started in 1794,

which makes it the oldest U.S. saddle maker and one of the oldest manufacturing companies of any kind. The company made saddles for both sides in the Civil War and also supplied the harnesses for the dog sleds that took explorer Richard Byrd to the South Pole.

It takes three to four years to train a skilled saddle maker. Once a worker learns the skills, he tends to be a saddle maker for life. "In the past, we've had workers in their 90s, and one guy was over 100," says Hanks.

A Smith-Worthington saddle

begins with a frame of hickory, birch or beech. Irish linen webbing is stretched across the frame—front to back, side to side. That is covered by five pieces of leather sewn together perfectly. The slightest ridge at a seam would soon become unbearable for a rider.

Each part of the saddle uses a different type of leather. The lining is horsehide and most of the saddle is cowhide. But only top-grade pigskin is abrasion-resistant enough to do for the seat. For the saddle to be perfect, the pigskin must be stretched, shaped, cut and sewn just right. "It is only doable by the eye of a skilled craftsman," says Hanks.

HATTERAS HAMMOCKS, INC.

PRODUCT **WOVEN ROPE HAMMOCKS**
PRICE **\$79 TO \$186**

Making rope hammocks used to be a cottage industry in the South. In 1976, Walter Perkins changed all that. He founded Hatteras Hammocks that makes 100,000 woven hammocks a year and sells them worldwide.

Hatteras hammocks begin with raw cotton yarn, which is spun into rope. The rope is then woven into hammocks at the company's plant in Greenville, N.C. One worker weaves the bed of the hammock on a loom. Another uses a hand macramé process to make the clew, which joins the body to the metal ring. A third worker prepares the aged oak spreader that gives it its hammock shape.

A machine could do it faster. And there are machine-made hammocks, says Douglas Orians, Hatteras' vice-president for sales and marketing. But machine-made hammocks are made of netting and have hard knots throughout. Hand-woven hammocks have no knots, giving them the edge over machine-made hammocks for that comfortable snooze in the shade hammocks are so famous for.

ELECTRONIC ARTS

PRODUCT **COMPUTER AND VIDEO GAMES**
PRICE **\$29.95 AND UP**

R.J. Berg began writing computer programs while teaching Greek at the University of Chicago. Today he is a game designer for Electronic Arts in San Mateo, Calif. The United States makes the best computer and video games in the world, and Electronic Arts is the largest U.S. maker of the games.

Among its best-known are *John*
Please turn page

Classic Nazi Memorabilia... For Under \$10!

Genuine World War II Nazi Coins!

Order Today!

Coins Shown
Actual Size



SAVE \$2.00
on the 2-Coin Set!
Only \$27.90

Hitler's Silver Coins... Saved From the Melting Pot

Following his rise to power and the creation of the Third Reich in Germany, Adolf Hitler introduced new coins as a celebration of Nazi rule. The most shocking include the silver 2 Reichsmark and silver 5 Reichsmark coins that feature the German eagle on top of the Nazi swastika — the only silver coins to show this dreaded Nazi symbol.

These classic silver coins were minted for only four years right before World War II... and because of coin shortages in the war, most were worn out in circulation. What's more, due to their connection with Hitler's Nazis, the German government tried to

destroy them all after the war. They were so effective that they're extremely difficult to find today in any condition.

Don't miss your rare opportunity to own these historic Nazi silver coins that were discovered in secret hoards hidden away since World War II. Best of all, you save \$2.00 when you order the 2-coin set! Order now... supplies are limited, and they won't last long at these affordable prices!

- Minted only from 1936 to 1939 — dates our choice
- Last silver coins of Hitler's Third Reich
- 5 Reichsmark is the largest coin issued by the Third Reich
- Coins also show Paul von Hindenburg, German Chancellor before Hitler
- Very Fine condition with lots of detail

Nazi Silver 5 Reichsmark **\$19.95**

Nazi Silver 2 Reichsmark **\$9.95**

SAVE \$2.00 on the 2-Coin Set! Only **\$27.90**

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Name	Qty.	Description	Item #	Price Each	Total Price
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____		Nazi Silver 5 Reichsmark	38004	\$27.90	
Phone (____) _____		AND Nazi Silver 2 Reichsmark			
(To Verify Your Order)		Nazi Silver 5 Reichsmark	36181	\$19.95	
		Nazi Silver 2 Reichsmark	32760	\$9.95	
☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card				Total of Order	
Card Number _____				MN Residents Add 6.5% Sales Tax	
Expires _____				Postage and Handling \$3.50 Per Order	
Signature (Required) _____				TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	

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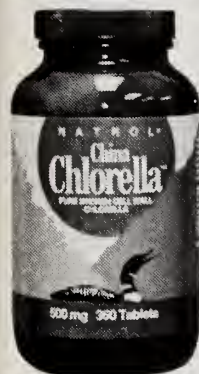


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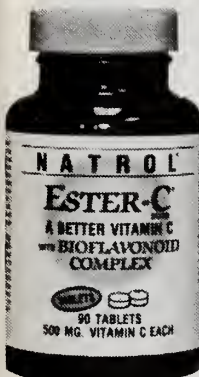


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Stop indigestion naturally. pH 10. Apricot flavored.

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4 oz tea
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Special preventative formula! That's safe and non-toxic!

100 caps
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250 caps
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An effective blend of whole foods and herbs. no caffeine, no ephedra.

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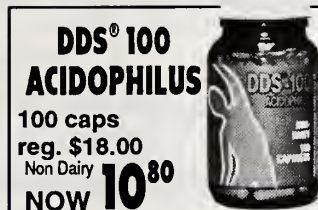
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Fight fat the safe, natural way! Super potency, purity guaranteed.

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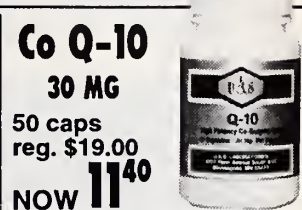


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Non Dairy

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UAS Labs gives you high potency, premium quality!



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Beta Carotene 25,000 IU	14.95	8.97
Super B Complex	7.95	4.77
C w/ Rose Hips 1000 mg	10.95	5.97
E Complex 200 IU caps	10.95	5.37
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Menopause Kit	19.95	11.97
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Nature's Way

	REG	NOW
Allerex	2.20	5.95
EPO (evening primrose oil)	14.95	8.97
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KAL Vitamins

	REG	NOW
Diet Max liqguels	14.99	8.99
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CRAFTSMEN

Continued from page 52

Madden Football, Jordan vs. Bird: One-On-One Basketball, PGA Tour Golf and Road Rash. Writing a computer game is like writing a book or a screenplay. It requires skillful handwork.

Berg designs what are called adventure games which—unlike the

shoot-em-up action games—are intellectual exercises. An adventure game might require the player to move from room to room through a castle in search of a treasure.

Each room would offer a new hazard, and the player must instruct the computer how to overcome each hazard. Action games are over in moments, but adventure games are designed to keep players occupied for 30 hours and more.

Berg's latest adventure game is *The Lost Files of Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Serrated Scalpel*. It was

first made as a computer game, using 10 floppy disks, and selling for \$59.95.

Berg developed the story, scene by scene, much as a movie scriptwriter would do. But unlike a movie, each new scene in a computer game is presented to the player by computer-generated graphics. And the computer must be instructed how to display each scene by line-after-line of computer code.

The Sherlock Holmes adventure involves 50 locations and 25 characters, and required nearly 200 pages of hand-written code.

The code for *Sherlock Holmes* was written by James Ferguson and John Dunn of Mythos Software in Phoenix. Both are in their mid-20s and have been writing programs since they were in high school.

Berg would tell Ferguson and Dunn, "I want Holmes to discover X and use it to do Y. Can you present that by way of code?" Ferguson and Dunn would write the code to make Holmes do what Berg wanted. "Anyone can write code," says Berg. "But can they do it efficiently, economically, cleverly? What we got from Ferguson and Dunn was very inventive solutions to problems."

The newest computer games now appear on compact disks. Computer CDs can store such an incredible amount of information that a CD game doesn't have to use those fuzzy-looking computer graphics.

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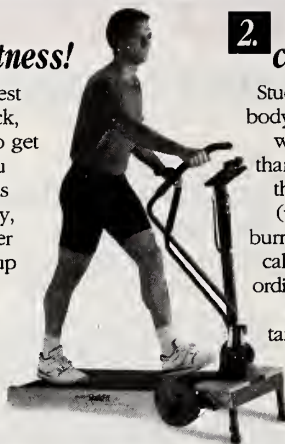
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CRAFTSMEN

Continued from page 54

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CRISIS OF SPIRIT

Continued from page 29

tion between right and wrong, and are wary of programs that smack of social discipline. At the same time, however, we have to recognize that the worship of greed is very much associated with elements of conservatism, namely, the Reagan era, where borrowing and spending seemed to be the basic pre-

scription for social conduct.

The hedonism that became dominant in the '80s, in other words, is the result of a curious combination of liberalism and conservatism.

Q. What's the remedy for America's spiritual drift?

A. The real alternative to total control is not the absence of controls, but self-restraint derived from internalized notions of what's appropriate and what's not.

Unfortunately, we now have none of that. Increasingly, we judge every-

thing in terms of legality. Today, the questions are, is it legal? Or illegal? That has become the equivalent of, is it good or bad? The result is that if we can get away with it, we can consider it good.

Q. Are you arguing for a revival of religion?

A. Religion has been the source of the moral sinews of many societies and its decay is not necessarily a sign of human progress. Yet, what I am arguing for is a revival of moral imperatives, of the things we should and should not do.

Q. In the international arena, what difference do U.S. internal problems make?

A. The problems faced by America directly limit the nation's ability to pursue the traditional superpower roles. With a weakened economy, we cannot be the global banker. If we lack legitimacy, we cannot be the globe's policeman. And if we are not an unblemished example, we cannot be the globe's moralist.

Q. Where does much of the world get its sense of how life in America is?

A. From watching television shows like *Dallas*. TV is the global communication device—the total number of TVs worldwide is over 1 billion. Can you imagine the impact on a peasant in Bangladesh who sees *Dallas* and thinks that is the American reality. What does that spawn? Envy, resentment, and among some, contempt and rejection. The risk is real that sheer envy—not democratic commitment—will spread in the developing world.

Q. Where is the U.S. image particularly harmful to our interests?

A. To the world of Islam—and I am not talking of fanatics, but of the majority of Moslems—the cultural message America's conveying is repugnant. The 1 billion Moslems will not be impressed by a West that is perceived as preaching to them the values of consumerism, the merits of amorality and the blessings of atheism.

We also have to be very careful not to be driven into a self-fulfilling prophecy where we see the entire world of Islam as an enemy of ours. It would be helpful neither to world peace nor to our interests if we permit ourselves to be driven into a conflict with the world of Islam.

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CRISIS OF SPIRIT

Continued from page 58

Q. Are there particular global "hot spot" areas where warfare is likely?

A. The immediate potential for warfare is in what I call the "oblong of violence"—a region that stretches from the Adriatic Sea next to the Balkans all the way to China's Sinkiang province, with a northern frontier of Russia and the Indian Ocean, and the Persian Gulf serving as the southern boundary.

This oblong contains portions of southeastern Europe; the Persian Gulf region including Iran; India, Pakistan, Afghanistan; and southern sections of the former USSR. A mixture of ethnic and religious passions, the region is composed of over 400 million people living in some 30 states. The list of potential conflicts is disarmingly long.

Q. Furthermore, isn't it a very well-armed region?

A. The tragedy of Lebanon is a preview of things to come. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a reality in the oblong. At least five, possibly nine, of these nations have nuclear potential. Some also have ongoing chemical or biological warfare programs. The absence of an effective American policy in the Balkans—and in effect we have been abdicating the leadership role that belongs to us—sends a very disturbing message to the world.

Q. Your book says that neither Japan nor Europe is a significant threat to the United States as a world leader, but that China may emerge as a threat.

A. Currently, the only viable alternative to U.S. global leadership is anarchy, but China might emerge as a challenger to American leadership some years hence. With its economic and political power, China could serve as an alternative model of social development and form a coalition of the ambitious, the frustrated and the restless states. If things go sour in Russia, if Iranian imperial ambitions continue to intensify, one could see an anti-status quo coalition led by China challenging the existing global hierarchy.

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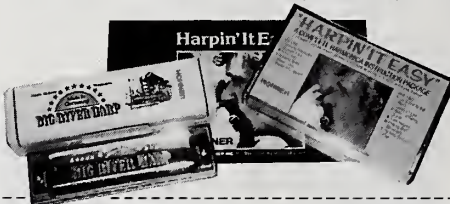
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AL 194

CRISIS OF SPIRIT

Continued from page 60

That is why it is critically important to create in the Far East—before it is too late—an effective multilateral security system and to engage the Chinese in it.

Q. Where is Russia heading?

A. Communism cannot stage a comeback in Russia. It has been too murderous. In the USSR, between Lenin and Stalin alone, some 26 million people were killed. And it has also been too much of a failure economically.

But a political movement which stresses xenophobia, nationalism, imperialism and state-intervention in the economy could be attractive to Russians. That description in effect describes fascism, a fascism that is exploitative of irrationalities. Under existing Russian conditions, these irrationalities are strong and hurt national pride as well as lingering imperial ambitions, particularly the refusal to accept an independent Ukraine.

If fascism arises in the region, it is not likely to be confined to Russia alone. It could infect a number of the former Soviet republics and the more unstable sections of Eastern Europe. Fascism in Russia is not a certainty, but it is a possibility the West needs to be mindful of.

Q. You say that the 20th Century is the last in which Europe stood at the center of world affairs. Where will world affairs be shaped from now on?

A. By America or by nobody. This is why American leadership is necessary, but for that leadership to be effective, a morally healthy America is required. The real challenge to America's special global role comes not from without, but from within. There is an absolutely vital connection between our capacity to lead and domestic renewal within America.

The difficulty, however, is that if we concentrate exclusively on domestic affairs and ignore the world, global turmoil will get out of control. We must redress our problems. We must practice renewed self-restraint. And we must also lead. The challenges facing America are substantial. But if we heed the urgent warnings and act, there are ample reasons for optimism. □

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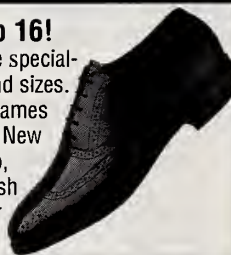
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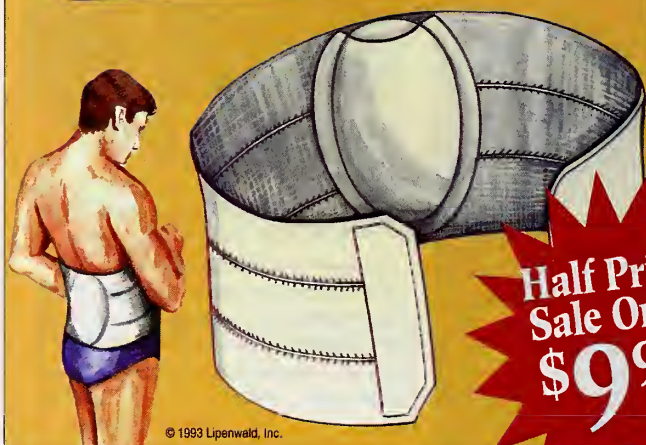


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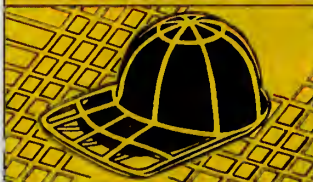
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RESCUE

Continued from page 12



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of the heavy medical bills of his 5-year-old son, who has Downs Syndrome. Lucas earns enough money to disqualify him for most public assistance programs, but not enough to pay his household bills when his son's medical bills stacked up.

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Since 1989, the TFA program has more than doubled its assistance to veterans' families. The fund last year aided 1,663 children in 741 families, marking the first time grants topped \$300,000.

Also, the number of American Legion Departments taking advantage of the TFA program rose from 38 in 1989 to 47 last year. Lindquist says that veterans' families in the Department of Minnesota alone received \$36,000 in TFA grants from June 1992 to June 1993.

He attributes the record aid to increased awareness of the program brought on by tough economic times for many families. "The economy dictates that people look to all kinds of sources for aid, especially when many options are drying up," Lindquist says.

For families to qualify for financial assistance from TFA, the children must be younger than 18 years old, and one of the parents must be a veteran. Youths 18-20 years old also qualify if they are handicapped or still in high school.

TFA money comes from the interest off the Legion's Endowment Fund and specially earmarked donations from Posts and individuals.

By Sharel McElwrath

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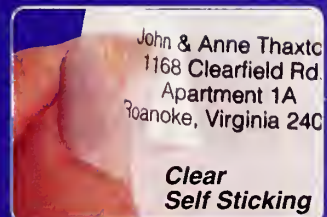


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PTSD

Continued from page 18

stress, one which the Pentagon doesn't like to talk about. "Sexual harassment and assault were apparently far more common in the '60s than anyone realized," says Beisler. "More women are coming forward with complaints of rape and abuse. The trauma they suffered is as devastating as that suffered by men in combat."

The symptoms of PTSD in women are sometime more subtle than men's. "Women of the 1940s, '50s, '60s and '70s were taught to be caregivers and nurturers, the traditional role of women," Beisler says. "That image does not allow women to exhibit rage, as a man might, but manifests with problems of physical complaints, denial and guilt."

Like men, however, Beisler says most women initially come to her Vet Center with problems of depression, marital problems, substance abuse and loss of employment. She says they are bothered with intrusive thoughts and anxiety due to their military experiences, sexual harassment or rape.

Yet, Joan Furey is optimistic. "We are at a very good place right now," she says. "In prior wars, when the fighting stopped, so did the research. Things are different now. The studies are continuing."

There's still much researchers don't know about PTSD, says Friedman of the National PTSD Center.

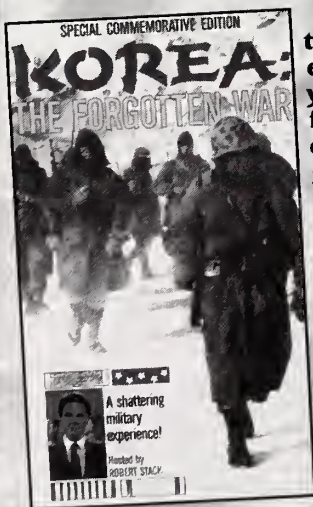
"We need to know if the effects of stressors caused by natural disasters and those created by combat are the same," he says. "We need to know why some people suffer from PTSD and others don't. We need to know if some people are genetically prone to PTSD, as some studies indicate. And we need to know if an abusive or harsh childhood contributes to PTSD."

Friedman and the other experts all agree on one thing: PTSD victims can be taught to cope with it.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of veterans are trapped in the rubble of their memories of war. And they need help.

"There is always a price to war," says VA researcher Pat Sutker. "Some die. Others come home, but still continue to pay the price. There will always be dues owed by VA and the public to those who didn't get out of war unscathed."

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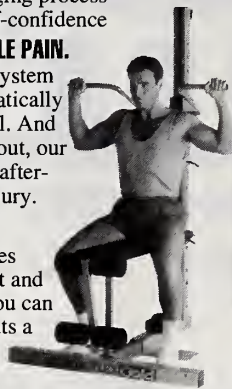
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Wars — under whatever name — which do not reduce the political powers of an officially named 'enemy' of the American people, and which do not increase the political power of the United States, must in the end reduce the political power of the United States and thus serve the secret objectives of a concealed enemy.

Archibald E. Roberts, LtCol, AUS, ret, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 26 September, 1969.

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1994 PRIORITIES

Continued from page 6

When 38 states have passed memorializing resolutions, the Legion will use this as leverage for congressional action.

7. Controlling rising postal rates.

The Legion's ability to communicate with its membership at affordable rates is key to all of our national goals. For this reason, we supported the recently enacted "Clay Compromise" which stabilized the volatile nonprofit postal subsidies or Revenue Forgone through Fiscal Year (FY) 1998. But the fight is not over. In FY 1994, the U.S. Postal Service will file for a rate hike as low as 14 percent or as high as 45 percent. Money that could be going into Legion programs will be stripped away by this rate hike. Let your congressional representative know how much spiraling postal costs are hurting your ability to communicate locally. The only way we can win this battle is by fighting it on home turf.

8. Keeping membership strong.

None of the objectives above is possible without a strong, growing Legion membership.

We have 3.1 million members, and of that I am proud. But there are over 17 million eligible veterans who do not belong. Let's find them and bring them into our Legion family. ☐

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Officers.

Fort McCellan, Ala. Elmer E. Glade needs witnesses to verify that while taking basic training at Fort McCellan during November-December 1944, he injured his leg and ankle on the obstacle course. Contact CID 1225.

Fort Richardson, Alaska Bernardino M. Murillo needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Fort Richardson, he went AWOL on Dec. 31, 1941, because his family was in distress. Contact CID 1227.

USS Boates (K-99) Charles Thomas Campbell needs witnesses to testify that while aboard the ship off the Philippines in 1944, he suffered a temporary hearing loss when he stuck his head out of a porthole as the ship's guns were fired. Contact CID 1226.

Engineer's Basic Training. Henry G. Bemsel needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Fort Belvoir, Va., in 1944, he went to the hospital twice for pneumonia on Jan. 3 and again on June 24. Contact CID 1214.

Btry. D, 2nd Bn., 10th Arty, 197th Inf. Brigade. Charles William Madsen III needs witnesses to verify that while stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., in February 1967, he injured his testis, scrotum and prostate in the motor pool. Contact CID 1215.

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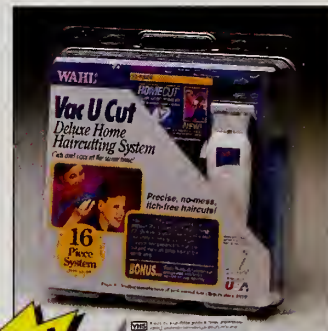
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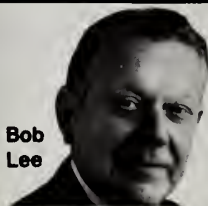
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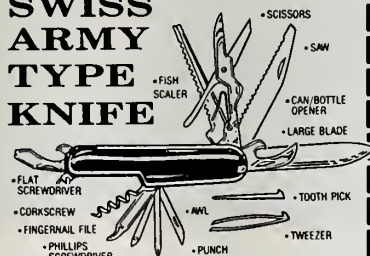


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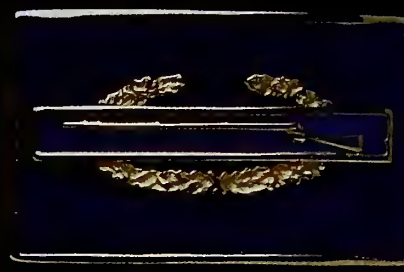
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Amazing New Product Gives Crisp, Clear TV Reception WITHOUT Cable!

Until recently, the only convenient way to guarantee great TV reception was to get cable installed. But who wants to pay those irritating monthly cable fees just to get clear reception? Now, thanks to years of micro-electronic research, a new device has been developed that's so advanced it actually makes other antennas a thing of the past. It's called the Super Antenna™ and is without a doubt "the single most important thing you should own if you have a TV!"

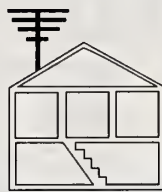
A PICTURE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY!

Just imagine watching TV and seeing a picture so brilliantly clear that you'd almost swear you were there live! Just plug this tiny 2" x 4" Super Antenna™ into any ordinary AC outlet, connect your TV and get ready for the best reception you've ever had without cable. You'll watch in amazement as YOUR TV set suddenly displays a sharp, focused picture. You literally "won't believe your eyes!" Even older TV sets suddenly come to life. The Super Antenna™ is so easy to install, so convenient to use, and so incredibly effective that you'll wonder how you ever got by without it!

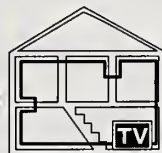
A THOUSAND FOOT ANTENNA?

Super Antenna™ is a highly sophisticated electronic product (like a transistor radio) with a simple function. It takes the electrical wiring in your house or apartment (hundreds or thousands of feet) and turns it into a

Just plug your Super Antenna™ into any ordinary outlet and watch in amazement as your entire house turns into a giant TV reception station!



BEFORE



AFTER

giant TV reception station! It's almost like having an antenna the size of your entire house! Imagine how effective that would be. But there's more, because Super Antenna™ takes that signal and electronically boosts it before it gets to your TV set. The results are amazing! You can finally enjoy your favorite prime time shows or sports events the way they were meant to be watched.

WHAT ABOUT MY TV "DISH" ANTENNA?

Return it! Millions of these things have been sold in recent years because people were led to believe they would work like a satellite dish. The truth is that they're no more effective than rabbit-ears, a loop, or rod antenna – and people have been struggling with these things for years! The incredible Super Antenna™ makes everything else seem obsolete. Just plug it in and watch it work. There's simply NOTHING ELSE better valued on the market today!

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Electronic antennas like this



one normally sell for \$50 or more! But now, for a limited time (if you respond before February 15, 1994), you can have the amazing Super Antenna™ for just \$9.95. Experience the best reception you've ever had or simply return it within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund. You absolutely must see it to believe it! ORDER TODAY.

P.S. Works just as good for radio reception too! Limit 3 per order.

RESPOND BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH FOR THIS AMAZING OFFER!

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VETVOICE

Continued from page 4

country. Some gave their lives in defense of this country. I have been a member of the legal profession for more than 42 years. More than 21 years as a state district judge.

I do not appreciate being ridiculed in a national publication and I am sure other lawyers feel the same. Members

of the legal profession continue to render honorable service to this country, their state and their community.

I think the hierarchy in The American Legion should give serious consideration to what this country would be if there were no lawyers at all. There would be no courts as there would be no judges, as judges are also lawyers.

Due to the official anti-lawyer position of The American Legion, and the glee with which it castigates lawyers, I can no longer support The American Legion. I cannot support an organiza-

tion that ridicules and belittles a profession to which I belong and of which I am proud.

Guy E. Humphries Jr.
Alexandria, La.

Postage Notes

What William H. Cameron ("It's In The Mail," Vetvoice, August) may not realize is that contacting Congress would be a waste of time. Congress does not have any say about postage rates.

They cannot raise rates, lower them or quash any increase. The Postal Service is a quasi-independent corporation and its budget is totally separate from any budget set by Congress. Congress oversees operations of the Postal Service; it has nothing to say about anything else regarding the Postal Service.

Dmytro Bykovetz Jr.
Philadelphia

Congress does have some say in the matter. It has steadily reduced the nonprofit postal subsidies in recent years. That has forced the Postal Service to increase postage costs for organizations such as The American Legion.—The Editors

The Postal Service has spent huge sums of money promoting things like the Elvis stamp and now is claiming windfall profits. It's too bad we don't see an honest, detailed report of these subjects similar to the Commander's Message.

A. Maltese
Palm Coast, Fla.

Snakebit Cover

I am sure mad about the picture on the August cover. I am certain there are many other subscribers who have written, protesting Saddam Hussein's face on the cover.

H. Lane Brownson
Albuquerque, N.M.

Herpetophobia! The fear of snakes. Like other phobias, it is totally illogical, but it is very real and for some almost disabling. My wife is one who suffers from herpetophobia. You can't even begin to imagine the terror the August cover evoked when she retrieved it from our mailbox. She almost needed medical attention. She is still not over her disgust.

Ken and Ethel Cage
Marysville, Wash.

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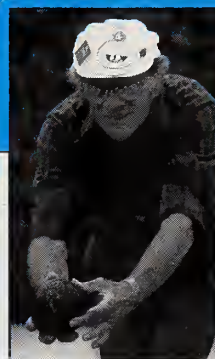
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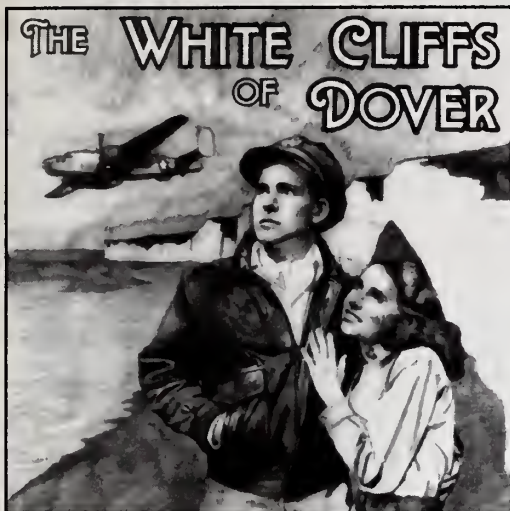
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What Uncle Sam Doesn't Tell You About Your Money and Medicare

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you might end up losing most of your life savings because of a defect in Medicare.

If you or your spouse suddenly become ill and require extended nursing home care...NO ONE will help you with the nursing home bills. Medicare won't and neither will your health insurance. By law you are responsible for the nursing home bills yourself. Only after you have used up virtually all of your money, will Medicaid step in. That's because Medicaid, like Welfare, only aids the poor. By some estimates, the average couple's life savings can be wiped out after only 13 weeks of nursing home care.

Rich people don't have to worry because they can afford super-expensive special nursing home insurance, while the poor are taken care of by Medicaid.

Now that just doesn't seem fair to working people with a lifetime of hard-earned savings. The system they have supported with tax dollars, seems to have forgotten them. Savings intended to provide security in retirement, or help for children, can quickly go up in smoke.

The fact is, if you don't know how to protect your assets, here's what can happen to you. By law, before Medicaid will pay nursing home bills, you have to spend all your countable assets except \$2000 (or as low as \$1500 in some states.) Countable assets mean not only money in checking and savings accounts...but also any funds in CD's, IRA's, Savings Bonds, Mutual Funds, stocks, whole life insurance, annuities and other types of investments, as well as most trust assets.

They can also take a vacation home or a second

car. In addition, your entire Social Security or pension check can be taken to cover nursing home expenses. What's more, if you are single or widowed, you can even lose your house.

According to the federal law called the Spousal Impoverishment Act of 1988, if one spouse requires extended nursing home care, the healthy spouse can be forced to surrender HALF of their combined countable assets. And if you have a sizable estate, they can legally take MORE THAN HALF.

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes. You are protected by law and can use several legal techniques to place your countable (or vulnerable) assets into the uncountable (or protected) category. The problem is, most people are not aware of their legal rights. Unfortunately, most people think Medicare will take care of them, so they unknowingly leave their assets vulnerable and in jeopardy.

Your legal rights and the many methods of protecting your money are now revealed in "How to Protect Your Financial Security." This financial self-defense manual tells you simple legal procedures for preserving your money and warns of pitfalls to avoid. Here is some of the valuable material you learn:

- Three legal ways to turn countable (or vulnerable) assets into uncountable (or protected) assets
- How to protect your house from being sold to pay nursing home bills
- How to protect a second car or vacation home
- If you give your money to your children without following these precise guidelines, a nursing home

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206.

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Designed for men or women, we believe they will be one of the most comfortable sport and leisure shoes you will ever wear. And, they're not just for sports fanatics...they're fun, fashionable and ideal for work, family outings and vacations.

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4 Fabulous Color Choices



Men's Navy



Women's White



Women's Black

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Sport 'N' Leisure	Item #	Size	Price	Qty of Pairs	Total
Men's	Navy	R6889	\$10		\$
Specify Size 7-12	Grey	R6890	\$10		\$
Women's	White	R6891	\$10		\$
Specify Size 6-10	Black	R6892	\$10		\$
Full 1 year money-back guarantee excluding shipping & handling charges.					Merchandise Total \$
					Shipping & handling (\$3.75/pair) \$
					Subtotal \$
					NY/CA add sales tax \$
(R68930-03)					Total \$

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Brown Regular	R7846		\$49.95		\$
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BONUS	Brown Deluxe (w/collar & lining)	R7847	\$59.95		\$
	Black Deluxe (w/collar & lining)	R7845	\$59.95		\$
XL or XXL sizes, add \$5.95 each jacket					\$
Add shipping & handling					\$ 4.95
Subtotal					\$
In NY & CA add sales tax					\$
TOTAL					\$

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(R78480-01)

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	Brown	7564		\$10		\$
	Grey	7565		\$10		\$
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		Shpg. & hdlg. (\$3.75 for each pair)				\$
		Subtotal				\$
		In NY & CA add sales tax				\$
		Total				\$

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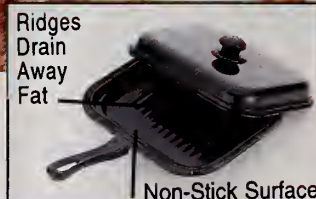
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	DeLuxe (Acrylic Fleece Lined)	R5912		\$8.95		\$
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	Gloves	V59230	\$5		\$
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Any 3 pair for \$13		In NY & CA add sales tax			\$
Any 6 pair for \$25		TOTAL			\$

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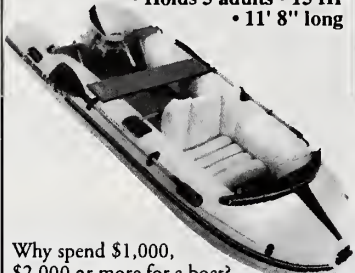
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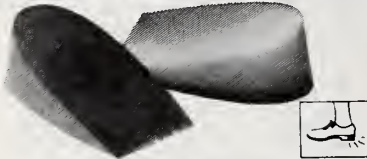
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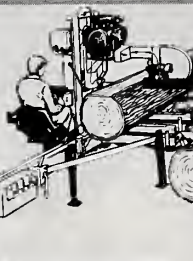
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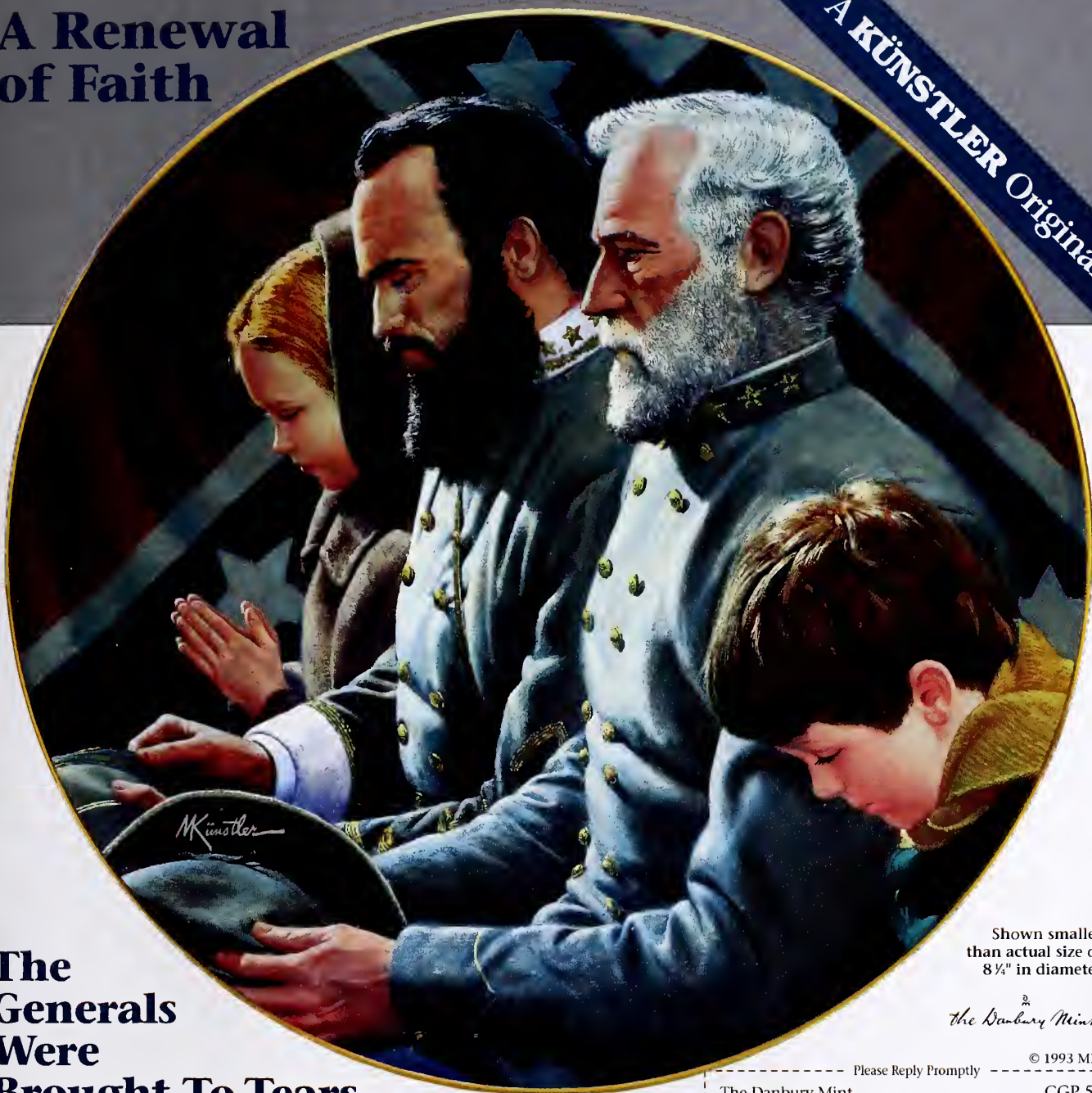
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